THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. POPE.

No. 733.

IRELAND.

THE state of wretched Ireland has been again made the subject of discussion in Parliament;—a discussion utterly unprofitable, except perhaps as affording another proof that nothing is farther from the intentions of its oppressors, than to touch the roots of the evils which they affect to deplore. Sir JOHN NEWPORT's motion was worded in the most general style possible, simply expressing the readiness of the House to bring forward any remedial measures that Ministers might propose. Yet even a pledge so vague was shirked, either from a consciousness of the impolicy of raising expectations only to disappoint them, or from a dislike to appear to want urging to a task at which they profess to have been always labouring!

Yet the debate was not without that interest which arises from official endeavour to defend a defenceless cause, a sort of attempt which, on this occasion, proved something ludicrously absurd and impertinent. Mr. GOULBURN had the happy task of explaining the total neglect of Government, during twenty-two years, to ameliorate or even to enquire into the causes which have kept six millions of people in a state of want and anarchy. And what is his exquisite reason? Let a man of the most erratic fancy—let even any one deeply studied in the history of the PITT School of shifts and evasions, puzzle his brain for a twelvemonth, and he will not guess it. "The Irish Government have only been in office a few weeks, and it would be unfair to censure them for not having already prepared means of relief." So that because my Lord WELLESLEY has lived at Phœnix Park but seven weeks, the Irish have nothing to complain of in regard to the apathy shewn to their misery for twenty years! "Was there ever such trifling on earth?" The fixing on a small portion of the Executive the whole responsibility, not only of the general Government, but of the Legislature to boot, is certainly a novel mode of exonerating the real criminals; and as the successive Lords Lieutenant have all excellent reasons why they should not and cannot discharge this extraordinary duty, the game is kept up between the Ministers as prettily as at shuttlecock, where the players are wholly intent upon keeping the feathered toy in perpetual vibration from one to the other. It seems odd, that a man should go on for an hour, proving something that was never disputed, by way of answer to a charge about which he has nothing to say; but the truth is, the former shallow pretences for delay,—that *this* was not the time, and *that* was not the time,—had been so thoroughly hacked and laughed at, that it became necessary, as a speech was to be made, to put forward a pert official coxcomb, to utter the regular quantity of fresh absurdity;—accordingly, Mr. GOULBURN was selected, he having been lately promoted from a minor to a major Secretaryship.

The duty of searching into the causes and cure of Irish starvation and confusion rests, in the first place, with the Government at large, who have the best means of getting information; secondly, with the Legislature, by whom all remedies must be adopted. As unfortunately the latter has been all along the mere puppet of the PITT System, the Government must bear the entire weight of the disgraceful fact, that year after year they have gone on ruling unhappy Ireland by pure terror, driving the poor to desperation by taxation and outrage, exposing the middling classes to the horrors of almost annual insurrections, forcing a deceitful calm by military force, and then again urging the poor, by hunger and revenge, to re-commence the appalling circle of violence. A notion has sometimes existed, fostered by knaves who know better, and echoed by the sanguine and credulous on the other side the channel, that much depends upon the character of the Viceroy sent out. In regard to any thing enlarged or important, there cannot be a greater delusion. A Viceroy is more a representative of regal pageantry than an influential person in the actual government of the Island. Let him be an acute politician and an earnest patriot; still his power is confined to sending representations to the Government at home, which may attend to or disregard them according as its own selfish politics dictate. A lord who lives at Phœnix Park, surrounded by a tribe of venal placehunters or flaming bigots, is not the man to add to the stock of information respecting the condition of the wretched population. The real grievances and their origin are as well understood in England as in Ireland. A liberal Lord Lieutenant may soften the asperities of party, may discourage the brutal insolence of Orangemen, may employ his local patronage justly and with conciliation, and may, by personal deportment and public declarations, soothe the insulted and wronged Catholic. Such a course some few of the Irish Viceroys have pursued—*more* have adopted the exact reverse. Thus far extends their ability, for good or for evil; and such being the case, we can conceive nothing less interesting to the enlightened politician who looks to the great causes now working the degradation and demoralization of Ireland,—than the change of a Lord Lieutenant or Chief Secretary. The three main curses of Ireland are—Tithes, Taxes, and the Protestant Ascendancy. The last, though the parent of Orange Societies, and the source of the treatment of the Many as an inferior *caste* by the corrupt or bigoted Few, is perhaps the least influential stimulant of the existing disorders. Disability from holding civil office can effect the lowest order but remotely at any time, and little indeed when cold and hunger pinch them. The Taxation, besides coming in direct irritating contact with the poor cotter, gives rise to the universal practice of illicit distillation, with its attendant scenes of ruin and outrage, its eternal succession of pardonable offences and savage punishments. It is not that the taxes raised in Ireland are greater or so great as those of England; but that, owing to the division of land into trifling lots, the labouring farmer is invariably the prey of the grasping landlord, and when rent is paid, feels every other demand to be brutal and intolerable. The Tithe System

combines in a high degree an insult to the feelings, and an injury to the pocket, of every Catholic Irishman. Contrary to the practice of every other country in the world, and most signally opposed to the system of Scotland, the faith of the few is in Ireland declared to be the Religion of the State, and the mass of the population being Catholic, are compelled to pay for the promulgation of doctrines which they think heretical and impious! In many a populous parish there are no Protestants; but there is a deserted church, a non-resident rector, and a never failing tithe-proctor, who comes to drag away an important portion even of the scanty potatoe crop of the squalid half-fed peasant;—all being calculated to remind the sufferer of the abject helpless slavery to which he must be reduced, before so daring a plunder would be committed upon him. To tax a dissenting minority for the support of other people's religious teachers, is at all times and under all circumstances, intolerant, gross, and injurious in the highest degree; but when there is not even the pretence of numbers, when it is the overwhelming majority that is called upon to maintain the abhorred priesthood of a mere sect, it is a refinement in cruelty and wickedness truly diabolical. In whatever degree the situation of the Irish Catholic is otherwise changed, while he is the victim of this detestable system of selfish plunder in "holy" guise, he cannot be justly called either free or respectable.

Such are the leading points of Irish misrule. There are the sufficient causes—there the natural effects: can any thing be more obvious or convincing to an honest enquirer? The grievances are, with the exception of religious faction, the same as those which, in a mitigated degree, afflict the rest of the kingdom; and the reason why they are not redressed is precisely the same in both Islands—Corruption could not survive the loss of so great a field for plunder and extortion. How near the condition of the peasantry of England approaches that of their fellow-creatures in Ireland, is a question which those who are hurrying us on to a crisis might advantageously reflect upon. If the Irish do not yet perceive, that their only hope is in a radical reform of the entire system, we shall be compelled to rank Ignorance among the other lamentable effects of long misgovernment. Every year has an affected whine been drawled out in Parliament over their wretched condition, and every year has some canting pretence for delaying redress been advanced, or some proposition to that effect stifled. But though Government could never find time and opportunity to conciliate and amend, they were never at a loss for either (as Mr. S. Rice pointedly remarked) when *coercion* was called for,—when the poor victims were exasperated to oppose physical force to the violence of oppression,—when, like an ignorant tutor who uses no argument but that of corporal punishment, these "vigorous" rulers employed only the bayonet and the gallows to induce patience under the cravings of hunger and the extortions of the licensed plunderer. We affect no surprise at this constant neglect of Irish affairs, whatever indignation we may feel. It is in perfect consistency with the whole conduct of recent British Ministries. If there is one thing more than another characteristic of the Pitt System, it is an almost exclusive devotion to the management and extension of corrupt influence. For profligate waste of blood and treasure, to keep down the principle of Reform, whether abroad or at home, it is unrivalled in the world's history. All its activity has been directed to the support of boroughmongering, and the enlargement of patronage. To this end every thing has been sacrificed. In no single instance has any attention been paid to the higher duties of a government—to the reform of abuses, or the improvement of the state machinery. Even the common ministerial duties, in regard to particular departments, have been neglected for the darling purpose; and it was reserved for this age to exhibit the singular spectacle of a single Member of the Legislature forcing upon the different branches of the Executive the most obvious improvements, which the authorities concerned first opposed and finally adopted! Nay more: a new practice has arisen from this neglect, of throwing the less profitable labours of government on Parliamentary Committees, one of which, as a grand climax to the whole system, the Chancellor of the Exchequer actually employed the other day to *arrange his accounts!!* On the foreign politics of this Pitt School of Statesmen we have often enlarged. Fear of Reform at home generated alliance with tyrants abroad, and the present result is—a close connection and *concert* with all the detertable despotisms of the Continent. Their devious course at home has ever been paltry and dishonest—their conduct abroad mean, perfidious, and enslaving.

REFORM.

BEDFORD COUNTY MEETING.

A Meeting, on the express subject of Parliamentary Reform, took place yesterday week, at Bedford—J. P. Latour, Esq. the High Sheriff, in the Chair,—when the numerous assemblage was addressed by the Duke of Bedford, the Marquis of Tavistock, Messrs. F. Palmer, Payne, W. H. Whitbread, and Williamson,—all (except the last Reverend Gentleman) strongly in favour of Reform.—The Duke of Bedford, indeed, made one of the ablest speeches on the subject we have heard for a long time,—a speech, which showed that neither rank, nor titles, nor riches, those usual overturners of common minds, have either weakened his head or hardened his heart;—a speech which was received with the attention and approbation it so well merited. Alluding to the boasted Ministerial reductions, his Grace observed, that a Secretary of State, with 5,000*ls.* a-year, was to receive 4,500*ls.* while a poor Clerk with 50*ls.* a-year, was to have his miserable pittance reduced to 45*ls.* Was this equal justice? *(Cries of shame!)* "Oh!" cried the Ministers, "the safety of the State depends on the influence of Government. You must not therefore abolish this undeserved pension or useless place!" What! the safety of the State dependant in useless offices? If so (which his Grace however denied) it was an intolerable State—a State not to be borne! for if the Constitution of England depended on *Corruption* for its existence, that Constitution was not worth preservation. *(Great applause.)* But it was no such thing: the Constitution rested on better ground—it rested on a nobler elevation—on the great basis of Public Opinion—that basis, on which every *good* Government must stand, and by which every *bad* Government must fall; *(Cheers!)*—The Duke then contrasted the noble conduct of the Spanish General Alava, who had declined a pension of 2,000*ls.* a-year from the Cortes, on account of the depressed condition of Spain, with the grasping behaviour of Lord Sidmouth, who, after being for years in the possession of various lucrative offices, and although his son held a sinecure of 4,000*ls.* a-year—*(Cries of shame!)*—he himself took on his retirement a pension of 7,000*ls.* a-year, although wrung from the hard earnings of an impoverished people! *(Loud cries of shame, shame!)* Had not the people a right to complain of such conduct? *(Yes, yes!)* The national debt was swollen to such an amount, as completely destroyed those plans which the industrious farmer and artisan had formed for their welfare. In such a state of things, a reform which would ensure economy could alone avail the country. Sir George Saville, Mr. Dunning, Mr. Fox, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Flood—all men dear, deservedly dear, to their country—these were the firm and strenuous advocates of Parliamentary reform. Mr. Burke, too, in his better days, and Mr. Pitt, in the days of his purity, were also the advocates of reform. Mr. Burke emphatically said, "that the House of Commons ought to be the express image of the people." But could any two things be more distinct in character than the House of Commons and the people of England? *(No, No.)*—He himself was quite indifferent to terms and names: he wanted an *efficient*, which of course was a *radical* reform,—"That dreadful sound to ears polite:"—Yet he nevertheless wished it founded on temper and moderation, for without it

he was convinced the noxious disease under which the nation was suffering would never be cured. Terms were of no importance; in illustration of which the Duke told the following very pleasant story of Sir W. Curtis: The worthy Baronet, he said, was some time ago unfortunately labouring under a fit of illness. He sent for a physician, who felt his pulse, and prescribed. "You will," said the doctor, "receive the greatest benefit from my prescription; it is a *radical* cure." "A *radical* cure!" exclaimed the astonished baronet, "I will have nothing to do with it; I will not take your medicine; I thank God I am no radical, and I hate every thing connected with the word radical." *(Much laughter.)* The doctor was going away in despair, but as he was leaving the room, he thought of an expedient. "I am very anxious, Sir William," said he, "that you should take the medicine; it is a *sovereign* remedy." "A sovereign remedy!" ejaculated Sir William, "send it to me by all means. I will take a sovereign remedy without hesitation." *(Much laughter.)* The sovereign remedy was sent—it was swallowed—and, as they would all be glad to hear, he recovered. That which he hated under the title of "a radical cure" did him essential service when administered as "a sovereign remedy." Now, whether the full and fair representation of the people was effected by "a radical cure," or by "a sovereign remedy," he cared not. *(Cheering.)*—Proceeding to the question of agricultural distress, his Grace said, that high rents and low rents were relative terms, and must depend on various circumstances; such as the value of currency and the price of produce. But the just result ought to be, that the tenant should receive a fair remuneration. *(Cheers.)* This was what every tenant had a right to expect from his landlord; it was the principle which had always operated on his mind, and he would endeavour, while he lived, to act up to it. *(Long continued cheering.)* He had always been an enemy to raising rents to the highest pitch; or, as the common expression was, to the "screwing up" the tenant to the highest point. *(True, true, and cheers.)* Such a system was disadvantageous to the landlord, it was disadvantageous to the tenant; and, consequently, it was disadvantageous to the country. It was impossible that things could go on as they were at present. Unless some amendment took place, and the greatest amendment would be a reform, the once boasted prosperity of the country would sink in ruin; but in the absence of reform, what was there to prevent the House of Commons from agreeing to any project, no matter how ruinous, which the Minister of the day wished them to support? Were the House of Commons uncorrupt, no Minister would be able to plunge the country into useless and expensive contests. The representatives of the people would express their sentiments, and Government would be obliged to attend to their wishes. The rights of the Crown and of the Peerage were secure; but how stood the rights of the *people?* The most unjust inroads had been made on them; and he denied that those who endeavoured to restore them were innovators, or aimed at innovation. He dreaded the destruction of their laws and liberties—he dreaded the downfall of the constitution itself—if the people suffered themselves to be governed by a system of corruption, which some men had the effrontery to defend as necessary for the safety of the state. *(Laughter.)* Corruption formerly hid its head, and performed its base services in silence and obscurity; but now it avowed itself openly in the face of day, and gloried in its degrading profession. It was to remove the corruption that he called on them to petition the House of Commons to restore to them the blessings of that constitution, of the benefits of which they had been so unjustly deprived. *(Cheering.)*—The noble Duke then read the petition. It was couched in very energetic language, and embraced all the topics to which he had adverted in the course of his speech. He then moved, "that the meeting do adopt the said petition."

Mr. W. H. Whitbread seconded the motion in a brief but sensible speech.—Mr. Payne and Mr. F. Palmer followed on the same side, and the Revd. Mr. Williamson succeeded, who admitted that Reform was wanted to a certain degree. *(Applause and laughter).* He did not wholly agree with the measures of Ministers, because he thought they had in many instances disgraced themselves. *(Applause.)* But, on the other hand, their conduct had on various occasions reflected the highest honour on their characters. *(Laughter.)* He thought when Ministers gave 10,000*l.* a-year to the Duke of York for visiting a sick father at Windsor, they reflected eternal disgrace on themselves. *(Bravo!)* With regard to the Queen, they did many things which were not right. They treated her in a manner which ought not to have been adopted towards the meanest woman in the country. *(Applause.)* But when the House of Lords gave their opinion on the Queen's case, the circumstances were entirely changed, and Ministers, he thought, were right in not allowing her to be crowned. *(Much disapprobation.)* He agreed with Mr. Palmer in considering rotten boroughs as very dangerous things; but it could not be denied that some members who represented rotten boroughs were put in by the Whigs as well as by the ministerial party.

The Marquis of Tavistock, a young Nobleman equally distinguished by his public spirit and private worth, then followed, and ably supported his Noble Father's arguments.

Mr. Higgins censured the object of the meeting. The reform which they sought to procure was calculated to produce disorder and to unsettle property.

Mr. Wiltshire defended the object; and stated, that it was impossible to conceive that the Duke of Bedford and the other respectable gentlemen who were present would countenance any project calculated to unsettle property.

The motion was then carried, and the thanks of the meeting were voted to the Duke of Bedford and the High Sheriff.

Reform.—Though private men are sent to waste away in prison, for denouncing the Corruptions of Parliament, even so far back as the year 1696,—when Boroughmongering had not by art and time been moulded into the present complete system,—the gross and notorious abuses in the Representation were thus pointed out—(not by a Radical or a Deist, but) by a sedate Church-and-King Man, the celebrated John Evelyn:—"Truly, my Lord, (he writes) I cannot but wonder, and even stand amazed, that Parliaments should have sate from time to time, so many hundred years, and value their Constitution to that degree as the most sovereign remedy for the redress of public grievances, *whilst the greatest still yet remain unreformed and taken away.* Witness the confused, debauched, and riotous manner of electing Members qualified to become the Representatives of a Nation, with legislative power to dispose of the fate of kingdoms; which should and would be composed of worthy persons, of known integrity and ability in their respective counties, and still would have them generously and as their ancestors have done, but are not able to fling away a son or daughter's portion to bribe the votes of a drunken multitude, more resembling a pagan bacchanalia than an assembly of Christians and sober men, met upon the most solemn occasion that can concern a people, and stand in competition with some rich scrivener, brewer, banker, or one in some gainful office, whose face or name perhaps they never saw or knew before! How must this sound abroad! with what dishonour and shame at home!"—[Our Noble and Rt. Hon. Placemen and Boroughmongers say the system "works well."]—"To this add (continues this disinterested politician) the disproportion of the Boroughs capable of electing Members; *by which the major part of the whole Kingdom are frequently outvoted,* be the cause never so unjust, if it concern a party interest!"—Who would suppose that this description was written upwards of a hundred years ago? And what candid person can deny, that a hundred years of such practice must have rendered the practitioners not only expert, but masters, in the debasing and ruinous arts of Boroughmongering? The lucky Lisbon-Jobber Canning cries "Libel" to all this: so cries the convicted seat-seller Londonderry: and so (God mend us!) intimates the pious Mr. Justice Bailey, while passing sentence on some earnest Reformer, found guilty of truth-telling by a Special Jury selected by a Government Officer!

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, April 18.—Yesterday a Commissary of Police, assisted by four of his agents, repaired to the residence of M. Buchon. As he was absent, they ordered his mother into their presence, and after exhibiting to her an order of the Prefect, they proceeded to an active and minute examination of all his papers. The doors and drawers were forced. The motive of this domiciliary visit was the search for writings, and particularly a song *(a song!)* having for title *The Cordon Sanitaire*, printed in French in *The Morning Chronicle* of the 12th April, and of which the seizure took place the evening before in all the *Cabinets Litteraires* possessing this Journal. There was nothing found at M. Buchon's calculated to compromise him.

The *Gazette* of Nuremberg has received a piece of news which is *eminently probable*, that the famous Ali Pacha arrived safe and sound at Mahon, with a part of his treasures; he had deceived Chourschid Pacha, who, being unacquainted with his person, contented himself with the head of an old Albanese soldier, dead of his wounds, which had been decorated with a magnificent turban!

UNITED PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 22.

IRELAND.

Sir John Newport observed, that the first duty of the Legislature, in regard to the unfortunate Sister Island, was to search into the causes of the misery and disorganization in which it

was plunged. Ireland had been governed for ages on the abominable principle of *divide and govern*. In those words were contained the whole description of the real cause of all its sufferings. That principle could not be better illustrated than by the declaration of one Boulter, who was Primate; in a letter relative to Wood's halfpence, he deprecated some proposed measure because it would *unite the people!* The system on which Ireland had been taxed was every way pernicious. Taxation has been increased;—but while the people reaped the misery, the Treasury got no advantage. Since 1808, four millions of taxes had been laid on, but they produced nothing: the revenue even fell off. It was the high taxation which added to the alarming extent of absenteeship. To prevent an Irish Bankruptcy, the Irish and English Exchequer were consolidated in 1817, and the Irish Debt was now paid by the united kingdom. He (Sir John Newport) had supported the late severe measures as matters of temporary necessity—as an exception to the rule of Government—and now, if ever, was the time to shew the people of Ireland that the Legislature intended earnestly to set about giving them equitable laws, and removing the oppressions under which they groaned. In regard to tithes, he should doubtless be told of the Rights of the Church; but were the Rights of the People nothing? And did it not happen, that the Irish tithes had got into the hands of a set of wretches, who ground the poor, and rendered them the most wretched peasantry in the world? For 22 years, propositions such as the present had been met by the assertion, that it was not the proper time; but would that answer avail for ever? Sir John concluded, by moving an Address to the King, setting forth the dreadful state of Ireland, and assuring him that the House were anxious zealously to co-operate in any measures which Government might propose for the amelioration of that part of the Kingdom.

Mr. Goulburn said, the meaning of the Address was to instruct or advise the Crown on its duties, and it consequently involved a censure of Government as having neglected those duties. Now he must deny that the Irish Government deserved such an imputation. That Government had only been in office seven weeks; and they were now called upon at once to remedy the evils of centuries, or to submit to the censures of the Address! Such a course was not calculated to encourage the Irish Government. He had too a more serious ground for opposing the motion. The present moment was one of great difficulty, and required more than ordinary energy. To tell the Irish people, therefore, that the House had withdrawn its confidence from their Government, would be a thing fraught with the most dangerous consequences. He was quite aware that the long misgovernment of Ireland was attributable to the fact, that its conquest was conducted on principles more hostile to the people's happiness, than on any similar occasion in the world's history. The policy then pursued was to keep the two parties distinct; whence arose that bitter animosity, handed down from father to son, which pervaded the mass of the population. To prove this, he need only refer the House to those domestic and familiar songs and tales which the Irish peasant continued to harp with fondness on the period when the English name was unknown in Ireland. He (Mr. Goulburn) denied, that taxation was any cause of the number of Absentees, for the obvious reason, that taxation was always much greater here than in Ireland. With regard to Tithes, he thought it a question so intricate and extensive, that it required a separate discussion by Parliament. He would only remind the House, that tithes formed a portion of the property of the country; and if they touched them, they might be called on to interfere with other kinds of property. He did not believe, besides, that tithes had any thing to do with the disturbances in Ireland. They were indeed often enumerated as a grievance, because it suited the purposes of the agitators so to describe them. Every means had been taken, since the peace, to light up insurrection through the country. The Government of Ireland had anxiously considered, and were now considering, all the topics mentioned by Sir John Newport. That Government did not deserve the censure involved in the Address, and he should therefore move the previous question.

Mr. Spring Rice was pleased to hear it admitted by the Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Goulburn), that the miseries of that country arose from misgovernment. *(Hear, hear!)* To be sure, the Rt. Hon. Secretary had contended, that the misgovernment was in ancient times: he had referred them to the 12th century, and thrown the blame upon Henry the Second, not forgetting Earl Strongbow! He (Mr. Rice) should like to know the Rt. Hon. Secretary's division of the old bad from the modern good government. For his part, he would maintain, that the chief mischiefs arose from misgovernment of a later date. Even allowing considerable effects to the feudal rapacity [illegible] there any man so silly as to contend, that a wise and enlightened Government of one o two centuries, or even of 50 years, would not be sufficient to correct that evil? *(Hear, hear!)* The Rt. Hon. Secretary said, *this* was not the proper time for enquiry. "Oh," said the present Administration of Ireland, "we are but very young in office;—

'Young we are and sore afraid:'

"We have not long held our offices, but do pray give us time, and you shall see what we will do for you." *(Hear, hear!)* To every individual who had brought forward the question, and every year that it was mentioned, the constant reply of the Government was—"We are considering the subject—wait a little—this is not the proper time to discuss it." When Ireland was disturbed, it would be *dangerous* to discuss grievances: when it was tranquil, you were asked what was the use of meddling with a happy and contented people! This was the system of temporising policy uniformly acted upon. It was, in fact, a Government, not of wisdom and sound policy, but of paltry shifts and trifling expedients. *(Hear, hear!)* It was a curious thing, too, that while every attempt to conciliate or ameliorate was shirked in this manner, all measures of *taxation and coercion* passed readily and without enquiry! The objection of the Hon. Secretary to his Rt. Hon. Friend's Address was very idle. His Friend did not mean to cast the slightest reflection on the Irish Government; he merely wished the Ministers to give a *distinct* pledge that they would propose something for the redress of Irish grievances, since all former vague promises had been so uniformly violated. [Mr. Rice sat down amid loud cheers.]

Mr. C. Grant (late Chief Secretary for Ireland) opposed the motion, because it would interfere with the progress of the measures which Government was preparing. The wretched abject state of the tenantry was the great cause of the miseries of Ireland. He understood that distress, to a most alarming extent, was discovering itself in the Southern Counties, and that symptoms of famine had appeared in Clare, Limerick, and Kerry. In no part of Europe, save Poland, were the peasantry so badly off as in Ireland, in point of food, clothes, and lodging. In short, they were in the *lowest state possible;* and the least accident of the seasons, or local misfortune, drove them to desperation. The pressure of taxes was doubtless a subject of complaint; but it was the enormous local taxes which so oppressed the population. A moderate commutation of tithes would be a benefit to the Protestant Clergy, as well as to the people. The causes of discontent, however, went still farther. British Legislation had been so uniformly hostile to the poor and middling classes, that a general distrust of law had arisen, and the people looked upon it as directed entirely against them. Till the time of James the 1st, as was acknowledged by Sir John Davies in his excellent work, so marked a difference was made between the people of the English Pale and the pure Irish, that it was scarcely a crime to murder one of the native Irish. But what would Sir J. Davies have thought, if told, that in the same country another division would be formed by law, not between Irish and English, but between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland. *(Hear, hear!)* There was a tendency in even the most arbitrary governments to adjust themselves to the people; but from the time of Henry the 2nd up to 1782, there was not a month in which the Government of Ireland could have stood without foreign aid. *(Hear!)* After mentioning that the Irish Government had particularly considered the improvement of the police and magistracy, Mr. Grant enlarged on the necessity of Catholic Emancipation, and the power of conciliation.

Mr. Ellis (of Dublin) deprecated discussion as irritating, and denied that rents, tithes, or taxes, had any thing to do with the disturbances. He cared not what distress the Protestants had suffered—*(A laugh)*—they did not disturb the country. The Catholics alone rebelled; which fact, along with the religious oath taken by the insurgents, proved, that the insurrection arose out of a great conspiracy to overthrow the Church establishment. The Catholic priests had appeared to exert themselves for the repression of disturbance; but were they sincere? It was suspicious, that they did not use the terrors of the Church against the guilty. Government must put down illicit distillation, and endeavour to give the people, not a literary, but a moral and religious education; an education founded on the basis of scripture, without which all knowledge was mischievous. *(Cries of question, question!)* He would assure the House, that he was obeying the dictates of a most distressing duty in having detained them so long; and he ought not to permit himself to be put down by those who, through ignorance or impatience, were anxious to cut short his address!

Mr. Plunkett, Attorney-General for Ireland, said it was not his intention to follow the learned Gentleman who spoke last

through the details of his disgusting attack upon the population of that country which had returned him to Parliament. *(Hear, hear!)*. It had often been asked, why, in the case of the Irish Catholics, satisfaction did not follow concession? One reason was this—because concession was always followed by the curse of bigots in that country, which, like blight or mildew, fastened on the boon, whether it proceeded from royal favour or legislative graciousness *(Hear, hear!)*. The circumstances urged by the learned Gentleman, were, in regard to his inferences, entirely false. The disturbances were confined to the lowest order of the people, who were, indeed, in the South, exclusively Catholic; but that did not justify the Learned Gentleman in giving it the malignant character of a religious warfare. The insurrection was directed against property; and the respectable Catholics exerted themselves as much as the Protestants to check it. On no one occasion had a Catholic refused to discharge his legal duty against his misguided countrymen *(Hear, hear!)*. After bearing a feeling testimony to the virtuous and earnest conduct of the Catholic priests, Mr. Plunkett adverted to the probable means of relief. He protested against any reduction of the property of the Church; but he intimated, that a way might be found, by which the clergyman might treat with the *landlord* instead of the tenant, and receive from him a certain sum for a certain number of years.

After some remarks from Mr. Peel and others, Sir J. Newport withdrew his motion, as rendered unnecessary by the admissions and pledges of Government.

Wednesday, April 24.

BEER.

Mr. HUSKISSON presented a Petition from Reading against the Licensing System; and expressed a hope, that the London brewers would follow the example of those in the country by lowering the price of beer. If they did not, he should certainly propose some measure to prevent their benefiting by the repeal of the Malt Tax.

Mr. F. BUXTON said, the price of beer would be lowered shortly, and he was sure the amount of reduction would be satisfactory to the public.

LEATHER TAX.

Mr. DENISON presented a Petition from the tanners and dealers in leather, against the Leather Tax;—a tax, said the Hon. Member, which only produced 600,000*l.* to the revenue, and yet, from the manner of taking it, oppressed the consumer to double that extent. It was a lamentable fact, that the labouring classes paid for the leather they used *five times* as much as was paid on the highest quality. The labourer paid from two shillings to two and eight-pence tax on every pair of shoes *(Hear, hear!)*. Indeed it was the most oppressive tax on the Statute Book. It was, to the fullest extent, a poll-tax, affecting most severely the industrious classes, while it was not felt by property *(Hear, hear!)*.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER did not agree with the Hon. Member as to the oppressive character of the tax.

Mr. CALCRAFT would be extremely glad to hear from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he considered *any tax* paid by the subject oppressive? *(A laugh.)*

ATROCIOUS TREATMENT OF MR. HUNT.

Petitions were presented from Salisbury, King's Lynn, Halifax, Norwich, and Rothbury (in Northumberland), praying redress for Mr. Hunt's cruel and unjust treatment.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT then rose to bring forward his promised motion. Up to the latest time, he had hoped that Ministers would have saved him the necessity of introducing the subject. When a course so palpable lay before them—a course as grateful as just—a course grateful to the public feeling, the omission to pursue which could answer no end but that which it was desirable to avoid, namely, the creation of a deep sympathy for the suffering individual,—under all those circumstances he certainly had entertained a strong hope that Ministers would recommend to the Crown to do what he was about to recommend the House to urge. With regard to the sentence on Mr. Hunt, he should at present confine himself to contending, that it was sufficiently severe. Had Mr. H. been convicted of the whole charge, the sentence would have been heavy; for the offence was a misdemeanour, which was classed by Blackstone among the *minora delicta*, for which imprisonment from one to six months was sufficient. But of all the numerous counts of indictment preferred against Mr. Hunt (and that they should be so numerous was in itself a hardship and oppression), he was found guilty of only part of *one* count—of a *minimum* of offence; so that he was a man suffering the heaviest punishment for as small an offence as possible. It was an ancient maxim of English law, that "a fact does not make guilt, unless the *intention* be criminal." Now, in Mr. Hunt's case, it was quite clear, from the previous character and careful conduct of Mr. Hunt, that he had not the slightest suspicion of the illegality of the Manchester meeting;—a confidence sanctioned by the silence of the magistrates themselves up to the moment of the military execution. Again, if two and a half years confinement were a proper punishment for a conviction on the small part of the charge, what would have been the sentence had Mr. Hunt been convicted on the whole indictment? If they observed the same proportion, Mr. Hunt's whole life would not be sufficient for the punishment, unless, indeed, it were prolonged to the age of Methusalem; and not even then, unless the life of *Dr. Colston* were extended to the same age also. *(Hear, and a laugh.)* Having, he trusted, convinced the House that the sentence was severe, he should prove, that the mode of executing it had aggravated its severity tenfold. It would, no doubt, be recollected that Mr. Hunt, on receiving his sentence, did, before he left the Court, ask with readiness and sagacity, whether he was to suffer solitary confinement? and that the Court said to him in reply, "By no means." Now when Mr. Hunt was sent to Ilchester, it was said in that House that he had been sent there because it was one of the healthiest and best-conducted gaols in England. As it had, on the contrary, been proved to be the *worst*, it was unquestionable that the Judges never contemplated the inflictions which he had, in fact, endured. [Here the Baronet entered into an animated description of the damp cell, the unwholesome air, the exclusion of friends, and the whole series of miseries to which Mr. Hunt had been subjected, with occasional periods of exception, owing to the kindness of Sheriff Bamfylde and Sir John Acland. The details have been before the public.] In the midst of all this restriction and privation, surrounded by difficulties, Mr. Hunt, with a praiseworthy spirit and boldness, demanded of the Magistrates an inquiry into the conduct of a gaoler, who had artfully gotten the good opinion of those Magistrates, and whose power of revenge was terrible. He made out so strong a *primâ facie* case, however, that the investigation was commenced. It had not gone far, before a compromise was offered, by which Bridle, the gaoler, was to *resign*. This Mr. Hunt firmly rejected; and it was a curious coincidence, that he was immediately served, first with an attachment for 100*l.*, for the gaoler's costs, on a motion of his (Mr. Hunt's) in the King's Bench; secondly, an Exchequer process for 200*l.* penalties for a very useful and meritorious invention, called breakfast-powder, as a substitute for coffee. It was only upon a harsh and violent construction of a bad law, that any such Excise penalties could have been awarded; and every body had understood an official person in that House to declare, that the penalties, should not be levied. But if they were to be levied, why not at first? Why hold back the process so long, and then pounce upon Mr. Hunt just when he was exposing local abuses? It was clear, that Mr. Hunt rather deserved a premium than a penalty, for discovering a cheap and wholesome article of food. There were, however, other parts of Mr. Hunt's treatment of a yet more atrocious character; for instance, the refusal of admission to his visitors, and amongst them the denial of permission to an anxious and dying sister, to take the last opportunity of seeing an affectionate and afflicted brother. Would it be believed, that this refusal was given by a man of station in society, a minister of religion, a believer in the religion of Christ,—would it, he said, be believed, that from such a man the hard-hearted refusal came to an expiring woman to take her last leave of a brother whom she loved? *(Hear!)*. How far the refusal tended to accelerate death, he could not pretend to say. It was done by the Rev. Dr. Colston, who must be told, that he not only violated his sacred duty as a clergyman, but also his legal duty as a magistrate; that he had paid no attention either to Law or to Gospel; that he had ventured to forget both, by more heartless, a more wicked, a more cruel and flagrant act, than had a parallel in the transactions of the most atrocious institutions that ever cursed mankind in the most cruel times *(Hear, hear!)*. It was worse, taking all its attendant circumstances into the account, than any thing he had read of in the dark proceedings of the Spanish Inquisition. For bringing forward an inquiry into such horrors, and for the ability he displayed in conducting that investigation, Mr. Hunt was entitled to public thanks; he deserved that tribute for his fortitude; but, above all, he was entitled to it for the benefit which his country could not fail to derive from the inquiry. He had held out to all the gaolers of the empire a memorable example of deserved disgrace and punishment. *(Hear!)* The Government had also the benefit of these efforts, singly made by Mr. Hunt—they would be relieved by them from a great and general cause of odium. The Hon. Baronet then adverted to the refusal of Dr. Colston to let Mr. Hunt see his own surgeon, though the prison apothecary was corruptly concerned with the gaoler in administering medical remedies as punishments; and the consequence was, that Mr. Hunt suffered acute pain in so-

litude for ten days. Sir F. B. also noticed other monstrous things developed in the Report, particularly the case of Mary Cuer, who was confined four days in a damp cell, during frost and snow, with an infant at her breast, fed only with cold bread and water in a *bucket*, and prevented from laying out the parish allowance to support her child, though her own milk failed on account of her sufferings!! If Mr. Hunt had done nothing more than bring to light such monstrous cruelties as these, he deserved favour from the House. A House of Commons at a former period of our history, had received an eulogy from a celebrated poet, for having enquired into the abuses of gaols. Thomson had commemorated that band of patriots—

> "Who, touched with human woe, redressive search'd
> "Into the horrors of the gloomy gaol,
> "Unpitied and unheard, where misery moans,
> "Where sickness pines, where thirst and hunger burn,
> "And poor misfortune feels the lash of vice."

If a House of Commons had received this memorable eulogy, what ought to be the praise of Mr. Hunt? What was his desert, who had brought to light this execrable gaoler, at the hazard of his health, comfort, and even his life? After some forcible recapitulation of the hardships Mr. Hunt had unjustly suffered, from the time of the Manchester Meeting to the present moment,—Sir Francis Burdett summed up his propositions thus:—1st, That Mr. Hunt's sentence was originally more than sufficiently severe; 2nd, That that sentence had been aggravated by the abuse of the powers vested in the local authorities of his prison, to such a degree as rendered that sentence, however severe in itself, merciful in comparison to the punishment he had since undergone; and 3dly, that he possessed some claim on public gratitude by reason of the successful exposure which he had made respecting the abuses existing in the prison at Ilchester. He therefore moved—"That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, praying that he would be graciously pleased to remit the remainder of Mr. Hunt's punishment." *(Cheering.)*

Mr DAWSON (Under-Secretary) opposed the motion. In order to shew that Mr. Hunt did not always complain of his situation, he read a letter which he said was dated "Ilchester-gaol," in which Mr. H. expressed his contented state of mind and satisfaction with the place. [Here there was a great call for the date of the letter as to *time*, which Secretary Dawson had suppressed; and the Secretary then said it was dated July, 1820:—the time when Mr. Hunt was well treated!] Among Mr. Hunt's visitors was a Mrs. Vince, the wife of another man, with whom Mr. H. lived in adultery. The Magistrates had thought fit to put an end to this scandalous intercourse; and this was the principal cause of all Mr. Hunt's complaints. The Hon. Secretary proceeded to speak of the comfortable feather-bed (at the county expence) and the bell, which were allowed to Mr. Hunt, as proofs of lenient treatment. He did not see why he was to be better treated than the debtors, whose wives were not allowed to visit them. Mr. Hunt had, least of all criminals, reason to expect a mitigation of his sentence; his career had been long and dangerous: he had been the founder of a new school of rebels, blasphemers, and infidels; and, till he and his disciples, Wooler and Carlile, had fallen under the arm of the law, there had been a continued interruption of public tranquillity.

Mr. HOBHOUSE censured the manner in which the Hon. Under-Secretary had associated Mr. Hunt's name with invidious topics, for the sake of diverting attention from the justice due to him. The Hon. Gentleman had gone out of his way to give them a lecture on adultery. He trusted he had as much love for morality as the Hon. Gentleman; certain it was that the friends of liberty in that House had much more need as their conduct was more closely watched, and was commented upon with malignity, with (as an Hon. Gentleman had suggested to him) *paid* malignity; but he recommended to the Hon. Gentleman to be cautious on that topic, as when he uttered censures on immorality in general, he knew not how high his shafts might reach. (*Hear, hear!*) His condemnation might affect persons very different from the defenceless individual whom he had dragged forward on the floor of the House. The intercourse of Mr. Hunt with Mrs. Vince was no doubt to be considered scandalous; but who were the persons who complained of it? The Magistrates who had permitted an improper intercourse to exist between the male and female prisoners (*Hear, hear!*), and Mr. Bridle, who, there was good reason to suspect, had carried on an improper intercourse with a female prisoner. (*Hear, hear!*) How then did the Hon. Gentleman pour all the thunders of his morality on Mr. Hunt alone? (*Hear!*) His back was broad enough to bear all the attacks—blasphemer, infidel, adulterer. The Magistrates, however, were not so confident in their morality as the Hon. Gentleman, for they had withdrawn their prohibition, and Mrs. Vince was now allowed to visit Mr. Hunt. Let the House recollect, that if the talents and character of Mr. Hunt were dangerous, as some thought, the danger was aggravated by continuing a course which the people thought one of persecution.

Mr. DICKINSON said, the Magistrates had displayed a readiness to enquire into abuses. He believed Dr. Colston to be a man of humanity: he had never heard any thing to the contrary!

Mr. PEEL thought that the proposed Address would be an encroachment on the prerogative of the Crown, not to be justified but by an extreme case. Considering the state of the country, and the dangerous course of Mr. Hunt and others, he denied that the sentence was too severe; and therefore he would not recommend the Crown to mitigate it, even though the House unanimously voted it. If the sufferings of Mr. Hunt, from the system of the prison, were a ground for the mitigation of his punishment, why did not the Hon. Baronet include all the debtors in the prison in his address; for they had suffered more than Mr. Hunt? On the whole, it did not appear that Mr. Hunt's sentence had been aggravated in its execution; nor was there sufficient ground for the interference of a Secretary of State.

Sir J. MACKINTOSH and Mr. BUXTON ably supported the motion; and

Sir F. BURDETT, in reply, protested against the general declamation and irrelevant charges against Mr. Hunt's general character, which had been used in answer to his motion. Mrs. Vince had been mentioned. Now there was no use whatever for introducing the name of that lady. She had no share in the offence for which Mr. Hunt was punished. It was a farce indeed to talk of the morality of the gaol; for the House would bear in mind what had been done in the Governor's house—and that boys had been introduced to sleep in the cells along with men convicted of unnatural crimes. Mr. Hunt had been unfortunate; he had been long ago separated from his wife, and he had lived 18 years with the lady in question. Mr. Hunt was sent to the prison at Ilchester for a particular offence, real or supposed, and not for the reformation of his morals; and there was more scandal and more immorality in thus prying into men's private matters, than there would have been in allowing free intercourse to Mr. Hunt with any persons whom he called his family.

For the motion, 84—Against it, 223—Majority, 139.—Adjourned.

Thursday, April 25.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESSES, &C.

Very many Petitions, complaining of severe distress, and praying for relief, were presented from Cornwall, Devon, Oxfordshire, Forfar, Radnor, &c. One was from the Graziers of Leicestershire, who equally participated in the general distress. This fact was corroborated by Sir THOMAS LETHBRIDGE, who warned the "monied interest" not to set their faces against the agriculturists, lest their own claims should be found in a hazardous situation!

A Petition from Aylesbury was presented, complaining of the "weak, profligate, and arbitrary administration;" and praying for Reform.—All the above petitions were ordered to be printed.

A BREAKFAST POWDER.

Sir R. WILSON complained of the conduct of the Excise, in seizing a certain breakfast powder (which he shewed), though each packet had a stamp upon it like a medicinal preparation.

Mr. LUSHINGTON regretted the proprietor of the Broma Powder had not tried the question with the Excise; and, he believed, if he had, conviction would not have followed. A Bill would be brought in to permit the sale of Roasted Grain, under such regulations as would secure the Revenue and Public from fraudulent adulteration of coffee.

REFORM IN PARLIAMENT.

The County of Lincoln Petition, in favour of Reform, was presented by Mr. PELHAM, who said, that the majority of his constituents were certainly in favour of that measure. This was corroborated by Sir R. HERON, who very pleasantly noticed the great numbers who attended the meeting at Lincoln, observing, that though loyal men might see something seditious in that circumstance, yet they would be consoled on learning that none of the parties brought with them any of those treasonable weapons called walking-sticks, and that they entered the Castle-yard in most constitutional confusion!—(*Much laughing.*)—Similar Petitions were then presented from Crediton, and from the County of Bedford, the latter by the Marq. of TAVISTOCK, who noticed the proceedings at Bedford, and urged the necessity of complying with the prayer of the Petitioners.—A Mr. M'QUEEN, upon this got up and declared, that at the Bedford Meeting con

stables were placed at the door, to prevent the entrance of those adverse to Reform!—This strange assertion was immediately contradicted by Mr. F. PALMER, who solemnly declared that there was not one word of truth in it!—(Mr. M'Queen was not present at the Meeting: Mr. Palmer was.)—And after another petition for Reform had been presented from Garrow in Norfolk,—

Lord JOHN RUSSELL made his promised motion on the subject, in a long and masterly speech. He said, the people sought nothing new—they only required that those whose duty it was to grant the public money, to redress the public grievances, and to advise the Crown, should in that House be their Representatives. This was the language of the people, and it was unquestionably that of the Constitution also. Within the last forty years, the condition of the people was much changed; and no one could assert that there was an accordance between that House and the public. The middling classes had become much more important; which promised well for freedom, as they were generally free from the vices of the very high and very low. The nation in fact had increased in riches, instruction, and knowledge, of which even the high price given for literary works was one of the proofs, and the spread of education another. In 1770 there were only four circulating libraries in London: now there were one hundred. There were 23,600,000 newspapers annually circulated: they had more than doubled their circulation within the last thirty years. Every Government was bound to keep pace with the advanced condition of the people. Had ours done so? If not, it was on its way to final ruin. *(Hear, hear!)* The improvement of the people had indeed been admitted, and was even urged as a reason for an increase of influence on the part of the Crown! Useless offices were therefore to be kept up: which was only saying to the people, your increased knowledge induces you to ask for economy, but we will increase in waste: you require honesty, but we will give you corruption. So that in proportion as the public became enlightened, the Government could less bear investigation! *(Cheers.)* This was not only absurd, but monstrous, and could only end in the ruin of the Government. *(Hear, hear!)* The majority of the Members were returned by about 8,000 voters; and thus while the people had been advancing in wealth and information, that House had almost become a close Corporation. Of the 513 English Members, only 92 were County Members. The small English towns returned 280 Members, who formed a majority: and of those towns, 40 contained less than 5,000 electors, and 100 less than 3,000. In these places, bribery, corruption, drunkenness, perjury,—the most degrading immorality,—always prevailed, more especially in Cornwall. *(Hear, hear!)* Of the 42 Members returned for Cornwall, only *five* were natives of that county! When Members paid for their seats, it was matter of perfect indifference to them whether they voted for Tory or Whig—for despotism or liberty! *(Hear, hear!)* Such persons were destitute of principle: they did not represent the people: they got into the House to advance their own interests. The prodigious patronage of those who possessed borough influence was very well known. Such being the state of things, so utterly at variance with the interests and desires of the people, unless a change took place, abuses must continue and complaints be perpetuated. The people were now convinced, that though Reform might not remove all their evils, it would at least secure them good government in future. So far was it from the fact, that the people were easily excited to sedition and tumult, they were always averse from change, until their grievances became absolutely intolerable. Nothing could justify the Walcheren Expedition—neither its conductor nor its planner could say any thing in its defence: it returned loaded with misfortune, disgrace, and infamy! Yet the House of Commons passed a vote of eulogy upon it, which it entered on its Journals! *(Hear, hear!)* ***This fact alone proved that there was no community of feeling between the House and the Nation at large:*** for the nation execrated the planners and conductors of that Expedition, though that *planner* (Castlereagh) was now a Chief Minister, and that *conductor* (Chatham) now held one of the most splendid rewards which it was in the power of the Crown to bestow! *(Hear, hear, hear!)* The Noble Lord now made various statements respecting the votes of the Members sent by few and numerous electors: from which it appeared, that the proportion for and against Ministers changed according to the number of voters. Of the *smallest* class the proportion was, 19 to 1 in favour of Ministers—then 3 to 1—then 3 to 5—or in other words, 5 to 3 against Ministers. They were therefore greatly in error who contended that the Members for the small boroughs represented the people as well as those for the large ones. The votes for the Salt Tax and Joint Postmaster showed how borough influence prevailed against the general voice. In fact, ***the real Representatives of the people were utterly unable to form a majority in that House;—(Hear, hear!)—and the public money was granted by those who derived a benefit from its expenditure.*** Every lover of his country must feel alarm of the Constitution; for though Ministers possessed the confidence of the House of Commons, the House possessed neither the esteem nor the respect of the Nation! Fatal consequences were therefore to be apprehended, and a change was highly necessary; for restrictive laws, coercion, and barracks all over the country, were symptoms of alarm and weakness, not of confidence and strength. *(Hear, hear!)* Those things were all abhorrent to the liberty of England, which required a very different system. He did not indeed believe that Ministers formed a plan to overthrow the national liberties: all they wanted was, the power and profit of place; and they had better obtain the support of public opinion. Instead of which, they fortified themselves with the Grenville party, which, deprived of its head, Lord Grenville, was absolutely nothing! *(Hear, hear!)* The people held them in particular abhorrence—all parties combined to club their vituperation against "the Grenville Party." *(Much laughter.)* The country in astonishment saw a levy *en masse* of this whole family and their adherents,—by a sort of general press warrant! The whole Clan was impressed in aid of Government! *(Continued laughter.)* One was sent to Switzerland—another, like a second Bacchus, was going to the East, to return laden with its spoils! The people held them deserving of execration, while the Crown bestowed on them its choicest favours. But the greater part of the Grenville party had no constituents,—so they could not be questioned by the people for their conduct, however odious.—Lord Clarendon, Locke, Blackstone, Chatham, Pitt, Fox—all were advocates for Reform, and some of them proposed specific plans. His own idea was, that one hundred Members should be taken from the smaller boroughs, leaving each one instead of two; and that the counties should return 60, and the towns and commercial interests 40: thus introducing 100 new Members into the House. The details, if the House entertained his plan, might easily be arranged: the great point was, would they entertain the question of Reform or not? Government indeed talked of the acquiescence of the people: but did they not acquiesce under the worst of tyrannies, until resistance burst forth, as formerly in England under James, in Russia under Paul, and lately in Spain under Ferdinand? Until they were overthrown, *they* too all boasted of the affection of the People. The present state of this country should warn Ministers. He called upon the Aristocracy and the Whigs to unite in support of a timely and effectual Reform, and give to the increased intelligence of the People an increased Representation in that House;—*(Hear, hear!)*—and if weight and number went together, whatever the change, England would still be safe. He also beseeched Ministers not to let temporary interests sway their minds; for by returning to the principles of the Constitution the country would yet become one of the most free and stable that ever existed in any age. *(Loud cheers.)* His Lordship concluded by moving "That the present State of the Representation of the People in Parliament requires the most serious consideration of this House."

Mr. HORACE TWISS (once an ardent Whig), now essayed to address the House against the motion, but it was just then seized with such a general fit of coughing, that the Hon. Gentleman's oratory was lost to the Reporters. One sentence however was caught which affords a good specimen of this Placeholder's logic:—"The advocates of Reform (he said) have no more right to say, Down with the Borough System, it is founded on Corruption!—than *we* have to say, Away with Popular Election, it is founded on force!"—Mr. Horace Twiss went on in this way for some little time, the unlucky coughing increasing all the while; when at length the Hon. Member sat down abruptly. He rose again, however, as soon as the coughing had somewhat subsided, observing that seeing the disposition, or rather the indisposition of the House to hear him, he should abridge his remarks; which he accordingly very obligingly did.

Lord FOLKSTONE followed, declaring that after much hesitation he had made up his mind that this measure was necessary to the salvation of the country. Among other observations, his Lordship said, that from 1780 to 1822, there had been an increase of 117 Peerages; and since 1760, there had been 209 creations of Peers. How did this tell on the Representation? Why, by every one of those creations the people lost an advocate; and most of those persons were men of landed property *having great influence on elections:* so that *instead* of Representatives of the *People*, the Commons House was the Representative of the *Peers!* The inconvenience of frequent change was much dwelt upon: but one of the most able and zealous advocates of Radical Reform, Mr. Jeremy Bentham, conceived that by what he called *annuality* of election, a greater permanence would be given to the composition of the House than was now known. What the Reformers now demanded had been possessed before; for at County Elections every *inhabitant* had formerly a right to vote—which was in fact Universal Suffrage. Without Reform, the people would not long submit to the sufferings and privations to which

Mr. DUNCOMBE opposed the motion in a brief speech.

Mr. W. WYNN spoke amid repeated calls of "question." The Noble Lord had said, that "the Grenville party" were abhorred on all sides! He was not afraid to oppose his character to that of the Noble Lord—to stand on his own character. *(Laughter.)* This might be called vanity; but he had a direct and *honest* course: and though he had been taunted as being without constituents, he had *as many* constituents as *many* other Members of that House! *(Cheers and laughter.)* He knew not why, but there was always an attempt to raise a laugh when *he* spoke!—The Six Acts had saved the country. He retained all his former opinions. The small boroughs returned men of great talent; and the Noble Lord's plan would only please the advocates for universal suffrage. There was a tendency to censure everything that existed; and that tendency should be repressed.

Mr. CANNING denied that the majority of the country wanted Reform: the majority of the *Nobility*, the *Gentry*, the *Clergy*, the *Corporations*—in short, of the *intelligence* of the country, was hostile to Reform. *(Hear!)* Even *Junius* had his doubts of the remedy of cutting away the rotton boroughs. There was nothing like unanimity of purpose in the proposed plans of Reform. If he were to indicate the peculiar quality which fitted that House for the fullest exercise of its functions, it was that quality which resulted from the *variety* of the rights of suffrage. It was not true, that the House, in order to discharge its trust with fidelity to the People, should respond to their voice *(Hear, hear, hear!)* He could not undertand how the Crown and Nobility could exist with an Assembly, not discussing its interests, but pronouncing the will of the people from whom it emanated. We should not look too curiously to the constitution of bodies politic or natural. Those who talked so much of existing abuses might be referred to the reign of Hen. VI., when a certain great Duchess wrote to Sir J. Barton, telling him that it was necessary that the King should have such persons as belonged to her in Parliament, as his *menial servants!—(A laugh)*—and she desired that he would return John —— and —— to be Knights of the Shire! This was at an era when Parliament was said to be at its greatest purity! He would preserve the present Constitution as a *holy depository*, and not aim at any alteration that might sacrifice the whole fabric.

Mr. DENMAN contended with much spirit that the existence of the House in its present state was a moral and political grievance, and instanced its conduct on the Queen's business as one proof.—Corruption was preying on the vitals of the Constitution, when she

> "Mounts the tribunal, rears her scarlet head,
> "And sees pale virtue trembling in her stead."

After a short reply from Lord JOHN RUSSELL the House divided, when there appeared for the motion, 164—Against it, 269—*Majority against entertaining even the question of a limited Reform*, 105.—Adjourned.

Friday, April 26.

A number of Petitions, from all parts of the country, were presented, praying for Economy, Reform of Parliament, and the Criminal Code, and against the Leather and other Taxes.—Mr. DICKINSON said, that some of the best land in Somerset did not pay one shilling rent!

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

W. Penvold, Leadenhall-street, horse-dealer.
H. White, Gracechurch-street, merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

F. Evans, Cirencester, Glocestershire, corn-dealer. Solicitor, Mr. Bevir, Cook's-court, Lincoln's-inn.
C. Kent, Manchester, shopkeeper. Solicitors, Messrs. Adlington, Gregory, and Faulkner, Bedford-row.
J. Burr, Hales Owen, Shropshire, ironmaster. Solicitors, Messrs. Long and Austen, Holborn-court.
S. P. Holland, Worcester, Hop-merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Cardale, Buxton, and Parlby, Gray's-inn.
J. Hirst, Awkley, Yorkshire, iron-founder. Solicitor, Mr. Lever, Gray's-inn-square.
A. J. Smith and I. Shepherd, Brierley, Staffordshire, ironmasters. Solicitors, Messrs. Tooke and Carr, Gray's-inn.
J. Child, St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, boatwright. Solicitor, Mr. Ellis, Chancery-lane.
E. Hannum, Crown-court, Threadneedle-street, insurance-broker. Solicitor, Mr. Hutchison, Crown-court, Threadneedle-street.
J. P. Firmstone, Wolverhampton, ironmaster. Solicitors, Messrs. Hicks and Braikenridge, Bartlett's-buildings.
J. Coales, Earith, Huntingdonshire, liquor-merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Long and Austen, Holborn-court.
P. Warren, Warminster, Wiltshire, mealman. Solicitors, Messrs.
J. K. Smith, Farnham, Surrey, upholsterer. Solicitors, Messrs. Fisher and Munday, Furnival's-inn.
W. Fowler, Staines, Middlesex, linendraper. Solicitors, Messrs. Fisher and Munday, Furnival's-inn.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

R. Smith, Frome West Woodlands, Somersetshire, innholder. Attornies, Messrs. Perkins and Frampton, Gray's-inn.
M. Carter, Forton-Mill, Southampton, miller. Attorney, Mr. Minchin, Verulam-buildings, Gray's-inn.
C. Carliell, Bury St. Edmunds, carpenter. Attornies, Messrs. Bromley, Gray's-inn-square.
J. Nash, sen., Clandon, Surrey, farmer. Attornies, Messrs. Palmer and France, Bedford-row.
T. Freethy, Acton, Middlesex, baker. Attorney, Mr. Hill, Welbeck street.
T. Cole and Richard Priest, jun., Norwich, warehouseman. Attornies, Messrs Tilbury and Langdale, Falcon-street, Falcon-square.
J. Beley, Birmingham, dealer. Attornies, Messrs. Turner and Hutchinson, Bloomsbury-square.
J. Mortram, Bristol, hop and corn-merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Poole and Greenfield, Gray's-inn-square.
T. Vaughan, Chorley, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer. Attornies, Messrs. Appleby and Serjeant, Gray's-inn.
F. Finer, Drury-lane, grocer. Attorney, Mr. Flower, Fenchurch-buildings, Fenchurch-street.
J. Bleay, Marston, Oxford, corn-dealer. Attornies, Messrs. Robinson and Hine, Charter-house-square.
A. J. Smith and I. Shepherd, Brierley, Staffordshire, ironmasters. Attornies, Messrs. Tooke and Carr, Gray's-inn.

Various Communications are delayed for want of room.
Next week, with some Additional Extracts from the ODE ON NAPOLEON, we shall give a Sketch of his BURIAL PLACE AT ST. HELENA.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY AT THE CLOSE.

Consols	78¼	Four per Cents	94¼
Reduced	77⅜	Navy Fives	102¼

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, APRIL 28.

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT'S anxiously-expected motion respecting the Treatment of Mr. HUNT in Ilchester gaol was made last Wednesday, and defeated by the usual majorities, not however until after an animated debate. The statement of Sir FRANCIS was comprehensive and forcible, his argument cogent and manly, with occasional eloquent bursts of feeling which delighted the sincere and appalled the corrupt. He grounded his motion upon three propositions:—1. That the sentence on Mr. Hunt was severely disproportioned to the technical illegality of which he was convicted.—2. That owing to his horrible treatment in prison, his punishment had been enormously aggravated beyond the intention of the judges.—3. That by his exposure of the shocking abuses in the gaol, under circumstances which reflect great credit on his courage and perseverance, he had rendered an important service both to the people and the government. And for these three unanswerable reasons, the Honourable Baronet maintained that, in common justice, Mr. HUNT should be spared the remainder of his allotted term of confinement. This clear and simple mode of putting the thing, left no possibility of an honest and candid reply. One Mr. DAWSON, a new-made piece of "insolence in office," was put forward to perplex the question; and he accordingly begins with an attempt to convict Mr. HUNT of inconsistency, by suppressing the date of a letter that gentleman wrote when he first went to Ilchester, and was well treated. This laudable endeavour being

blasphemy, sedition, and other horrors, which have about as much to do with the case as if the man in office had talked of the Shunites of Persia. There is one thing in Mr. DAWSON's speech which should not be lightly passed over: we mean his unmanly and unfeeling introduction of the name of the lady, who for eighteen years has lived with Mr. HUNT in a manner which might afford a pattern to many married people. Whether it is Mr. Hunt's misfortune or the law's fault, that they are not man and wife in form as well as in fact, is of no consequence to this question; but it is indeed a new system, when a man falls under the blow of the law for a *political* offence, that his family matters are to be enquired into, and himself arbitrarily punished by any local tyrant. Mr. HOBHOUSE was very spirited and cutting in his exposure of the pitiful cant about preserving the gaol from an immoral spectacle (that gaol where the most brutal grossness was carried on!); and most men will be inclined to agree with Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, that the real *immorality* consists in dragging forth such matters before the public eye. To back the Under Secretary, Mr. PEEL took part in the debate. His alarm lest the proposed Address should encroach upon the privileges of the Crown was very *naive* and amusing: no less so was his principal point in reply to Sir FRANCIS. "Mr. HUNT was not worse treated than the debtors; and if he was to be enlarged, why not they also?" Why not, indeed!

Mr. DENMAN was on Thursday elected Common Sergeant, by a majority over Mr. BOLLAND of twelve. Except by the mere Ultras, his success was hailed in all quarters, for his character is universally respected.

POETRY.

THE CORDON SANITAIRE.

A SPANIARD to our soldiers cried,—
('Twas from a Pyrenean brow,
In tones of conscious power and pride)—
"Where is your country's freedom now?"
He checked their tale of days gone by,
Of victories won,—but now forgot:—
"There is but *one* true victory,
'TIS TO BE FREE,—and you are *not*."—

He came from Spain:—His steps advance;
And these reproaches reached their ear:—
"What, warriors, have you gained for France
"By conquests, that have cost so dear?
"In history's weary page to see
"Your names with barren wreaths inwrought:—
"There is but *one* true victory,
"'TIS TO BE FREE,—and you are *not*."

"A King, enshrined in Gothic rust,
"With distaff-sceptre, crazy, weak,
"Shall *he* crush Frenchmen into dust,
"And wave a rod a child might break?
"Talk not of all your fame to me,—
"It is not worth a word, a thought;—
"There is but *one* true victory,
"'TIS TO BE FREE,—and you are *not*."

Our Soldiers then indignant rose,
And flashing brands implied revenge:
Loud cried the warrior, "Know your foes;—
"No blood of mine your soil should tinge!
"If ye want victims,—let those be
"The victims, who your chains have wrought;—
"There is but *one* true victory,
"'TIS TO BE FREE,—and you are *not*."

Even as the lightest clouds disperse,
So is our warriors' anger gone;
They clasp their friend—the universe
Hears thus their intermingling tone:—
"O yes! we swear, that Liberty
Shall pass the Loire—amidst the cry,
We swear, we swear, by Victory,
And then, to form our badge of fight,
A Colonel gave his robe of blue,
And on the hated Lys of white
Open'd a vein and stained it thro';
And, as a light-house splendidly
Shines from some cliff sublimely high,
Our flag shall wave—for victory,
Or pleased to live or proud to die!

B.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

"Nor doth his grandeur and majestic show
"Of luxury, though called magnificence,
"Allure mine eye."—*Milton.*

"An old Wanton will be doating upon women, when he can scarce see without spectacles."—*South.*

HIS Majesty's Birth-day, which falls on the 12th of August, was celebrated on Tuesday, being St. George's day. The morning was ushered in with the customary demonstrations of *rejoicing*. The Officers of State gave entertainments, and it was a general holiday at the public offices. About half-past eleven o'clock his Majesty went to Buckingham-house, to hold a drawing-room. His Majesty wore a Field Marshal's uniform with the order of the Garter. The company began to arrive soon after twelve o'clock, and continued setting down till between four and five, but not very briskly, owing to the frequent fall of rain. It was considered one of the most numerous and splendid that has assembled for some years past. The presentation dresses of the ladies were most costly. There was generally a great display of jewels, in which the Duchess of Buckingham appeared to excel. There did not (continues the Court historian) appear to be any of the gentlemen's dresses superior to *Mr. Coates*, who wore a dark velvet coat, richly embroidered, with a sword and sheath of the value of 3,000*l*. from the profusion of diamonds on the hilt and sheath!—The King received a numerous assemblage of Bishops. The Archbishop of Canterbury delivered a congratulatory address from the reverend body, upon the happy return of the day, to which his Majesty returned a most gracious answer. The King then received the Foreign Ambassadors, Ministers, &c. His Majesty then proceeded to the grand saloon, and took his station in the front of the throne, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Augusta, and the Princess Sophia Matilda, and proceeded to receive the numerous presentations.

The daily papers contain long accounts of the Dresses worn by the Ladies on this occasion. That of the Princess ESTERHAZY was "indescribably grand!"—The Marchioness of LONDONDERRY's head-dress consisted of "a *toque* of velvet, the front *entirely covered with costly diamonds*, and surmounted with a magnificent plume of white feathers."—The Marchioness of HUNTLEY wore a precious pearl, hung upon her necklace in front, supposed to be the most valuable appendage of the sort at the Drawing-room.—The Countess of LEIVEN wore "a magnificent dress of silver lama, the arrangement of design being quite novel;—the front or apron beautifully drawn to represent a bouquet of flowers, composed of bright and frosted silver, round the bottom of which being the same pattern, and the whole being so massive and costly, as to be *oppressively heavy* to her Ladyship:—this dress (adds the Court historian) was the wonder and admiration of the whole Court."—Lady DESANGES's "dress was admired for its magnificence and novelty."—

"Rise up, ye Women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye Careless Daughters; give ear unto my speech!—For this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison-houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore!"—*Isaiah.*

The exceedingly delicate state of his Majesty's health obliged him to quit the Drawing Room soon after four o'clock. This event occasioned many disappointments, for the company continued to arrive more than one hour after the King had retired, and a great number of persons were obliged

pered in the political circles, that the names of the Spanish Ambassador and suite, who were present at the Levee on Friday and at the Drawing Room on Tuesday, were omitted in the Court Circular by an order from the highest authority.—What can this mean?—*Morning Chronicle.*

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

Italian Opera.

There has not been a more brilliant and attractive entertainment for many years than on Tuesday last, when in addition to the novelty of Rossini's opera of *Pietro l'Eremita*, and Signor Zuchelli's debut, there was the first appearance of Mons. Paul in England, the return of Mademoiselle Noblet, and the farewell of Albert; these combined with the court dresses and monstrous piles of feathers on the head, as high and large as the plumes of a hearse, which seemed to many of the audience much more interesting than the performance, occasioned one of the fullest houses we ever remember. Of Rossini's opera we must first speak, and confess ourselves on the whole disappointed. In the first place, it suffers from the change of the subject, which originally was the persecution of the Israelites by Pharoah, and the miracles performed and plagues inflicted by Moses, to prevail upon him to let the people go: this subject it seems is not to be allowed upon the stage here, though played every where on the continent; and Pharoah is accordingly transformed to a Sultan, Moses to Peter the Hermit, and the Jews to Christians, by which means the church-goers are satisfied, who would otherwise have been shocked. It is somewhat singular, that the agent employed to harden Pharoah's heart when disposed to relent, is his evil-disposed son; yet the alteration is not injudicious, as the attempt was of a nature more suited to the frailty of a mortal than the goodness of a higher power.—To Rossini's treatment of the subject there is much objection; as the situations are often too serious, and the devotion too solemn, to allow of those tricksome passages that he will not dispense with, and which suit as ill such a subject, as they agree with the sportive lightness of comedy. He also falls too often into the mistake of expressing grandeur by noise, and is not sufficiently sparing of the drums and trombones. How differently Mozart felt on such occasions, may be seen in the sublime march and subsequent hymn of "*Possenti Numi,*" in the *Zauberflotte*, where all is quiet and subdued, and doubly solemn and imploring on that account. In this point Rossini is under a mistake; but we must admit the work to be one that has increased our opinion of his genius. The mournful chorus in the first scene, where the Egyptians are suffering under the plague of darkness, and the subsequent return of light and joy, at the command of Moses, afford a fine opportunity for expression, and he has succeeded completely. There is also a song given to Moses "*Un crescente mormorio,*" full of agitation, described in his own original manner; the duets of "*Fremo, o ciel!*" and "*Parlar spiegar non posso,*" are in a fine and brilliant style; and the Canoni, of which he is so fond, are very pleasing, although inferior to some of those introduced in the other operas performed this season. The chorusses, too, would be very grand if executed by adequate singers, but the present set are wofully deficient in a most essential requisite, the keeping strict time, the want of which mars the effect of the whole opera. Another great drawback to its success in England, is the extraordinary length of the recitatives, which are quite exhausting, particularly as they stretch us feel that there might have been a plague of music added to the other inflictions of the prophet.

Of Signor Zucchelli, who performs Pharoah, it is impossible to speak but in terms of great praise; his voice is a fine deep and powerful bass, with an extraordinary facility of execution, unlike anything usual in voices of that description, but which rather leads him into the defect of too exuberant embellishment. Madame Ronzi and Signor Curioni appear to great advantage in this opera, but Madame Camporese would do well to scream less; her voice sounded unusually harsh and metallic, owing to her strenuous exertion in the arduous performance. The close of the opera was most ridiculous, and drew peals of laughter from the audience;—the Red Sea was omitted, we presume by order of the Lord Chamberlain, and was replaced by a most ricketty bridge, which seemed likely to destroy all the performers in reality: with much ado they passed over, all but two ill-stuffed figures that followed them, and fell into the water below, as a representation of the destruction of the whole host,—a climax never surpassed at a Puppet-shew or Bartholomew Fair.

Monsieur Paul, in the Divertisement, exhibited his flying jumps, pirouettes, and elastic reboundings, in a most surprising manner; and Mademoiselle Noblet shewed that she had not been idle in her absence, but we were sorry to see her so much thinner. Albert took his leave amidst a warmth of applause that seemed to affect him much, as it showed how completely his extraordinary talent has been appreciated. X.

Drury-Lane.

On Thursday evening, Mr. Braham reappeared in the *Seraskier*, in the *Siege of Belgrade*, and exhibited all his skill, his pathos, and occasional licence of ornament. His organ possibly feels the touch of time, so far as to detract in some small degree from the powerful solidity of tone which has been so peculiarly his own; yet this remark is only made in comparison with himself, for in respect to other singers, he is still in this particular, a giant among pigmies. He sang *The Rose and the Lily* with great delicacy, and appealed to the heart of *Catherine* as a lover and soldier, in *My heart with love is beating*, with great pathos of expression in the tender parts; but somewhat failed by overstraining his voice, which became rather noisily than musically powerful in the martial allusions. Of his acting we must say little, and least of all upon his fencing, which placed Cooper, as *Cohenberg*, in the situation of *Lord Grizzle*, who conquered because there was nothing to oppose him. By the way, Cooper looked the most manly, gentlemanly, and soldierly *Cohenberg* we have witnessed since the days of our youth and of John Palmer.

Miss Forde exhibited this evening, as heretofore, a very extraordinary power of voice, and some of her tones evinced great sweetness and expression; but the general effect was not so good as it will be when practice shall have enabled her to modulate her voice, and adapt its range to the Theatre. Many of the passages were out of tune, simply from embarrassment and timidity alone; but possessed as she is, of abundant *materiel*, we scarcely doubt that she will cultivate into a fine singer. Her duet, with Braham, *Of plighted faith*, was sung with great beauty, feeling, and what is equally rare, with fine articulation.

Madame Vestris, as *Lilla*, was delightful. Her teazing explanation to *Leopold*, with its little dancing accompaniment, was beautifully given, as also the duet in the third act, *Though you think by this to vex me:* they

When thy bosom heaves a sigh, by BRAHAM, was introduced, and very excellently sung by him and this very pleasing woman, singer and actress.

Mrs. BLAND still sings; and so she did 20 years ago, in the same character, and very little better than she does at present. HARLEY was most entertaining as *Leopold*, not quite so natural as BANNISTER; but admirably bustling and lively. GATTIE was not SUETT in *Yuseph*, but very good in another way—SUETT's died with him.

COVENT-GARDEN.

The play of *Julius Cæsar* has been got up at this Theatre with considerable eclat. A tragedy, affording such scope for declamatory ability, with three possessors of it, like YOUNG, MACREADY, and C. KEMBLE, could scarcely fail of most respectable performance, and such it exhibited. YOUNG, in the most amiable of the Roman stoics, for such was undoubtedly *Marcus Brutus*, gave a very faithful version of the stilted public virtue which belonged to that school of Romans, of which he was destined to be the last. The more equivocal patriotism and asperity of *Cassius* were also ably made out by MACREADY. Upon the respectability of the *Mark Anthony* of C. KEMBLE, it is unnecessary to expatiate, it being so well known. This tragedy has been altogether spiritedly got up, and attracted a very full house, which applauded unanimously. Three or four able actors in one piece, as in the olden time, will do much to revive a sound taste for the Drama. This seems now to be perceived, and we hope the practice will be conformable. Q.

LITERARY NOTICES.

Poeme Lyrique sur La Mort de Napoleon. Par Pierre Lebrun: —Lyrical Poem on the Death of Napoleon, by Peter Lebrun.

WE are not prepared to say that there is any excess of poetry in this production, yet it is not destitute either of poetry or feeling. The author is evidently as strong an admirer of Napoleon, as the nature of the times and the licence of publication in France will permit. This is not to be wondered at. He was a student at the National School of St. Cyr, during the brilliant ascendancy of the fallen Star, and partook of the enthusiasm which the occasional visits and examinations of Napoleon so instilled into the youth of France, that a brace of generations must pass away before it can be eradicated. We will say nothing of the intrinsic value of the two species of instruction—that which endeavoured to make a certain portion of solid, scientific, and scholastic acquirement concentrate in a strong feeling of national glory, and personal attachment to an individual, who had done so much to advance it;—or to a revival of that education, which gives consequence to the miracles of the Golden Legend, and to Baptism of Bells and Parish Clocks! We are not absolutely in love with either; but we see which, in a direct contest, must necessarily prevail. France shews which *does* prevail, in point of sentiment, and it is that which in the sequel must equally prevail in point of fact, unless a third result take place, which is better than either; and which we indulge a hope of seeing set aside both.

If we may collect a fact or two from the preface to this poem, and rely upon them, the sensation created in Paris by the news of the Death of Napoleon was as deep and profound as might have been expected: "Foreigners," says the author, "who accused us of failing in dignity towards a man who had been our Emperor, will not, I hope, reproach us in this instance with forgetfulness of what was due to ourselves. It is remarkable, that an event received by such various and opposed interests, should encounter a respect so general and unanimous. All party was restrained; every passion remained mute; all hatred acknowledged the sanctity of Death, and was stayed at the sight of the tomb."—The state of the French Journals, and the temper of English observation, would possibly not allow *us* to understand the extent of this feeling at the time; but we think a little acute observation of the present temper and feeling of France, will shew that the foregoing representation is essentially correct.

This poem opens with a little too much about a Star, and its extinction, in the style of that somewhat trite fatalism, by which Napoleon himself was in a degree seduced. Allowing for the artificial nature of it, however, it is neither unfeeling nor inelegant. After an apostrophe on a death which so defeated a conqueror, the poet glances to the ceremonies which would have attended his death under *other* circumstances. "All France in mourning—the preparations for funereal pomp—the imperial bier—the walls of St. Denis—the tears and cries of the people, and of the soldiers—the priests, the flambeaux, and funereal chaunt!—Where are all these?" exclaims the poet, (and all true Frenchmen will forgive him what follows:—) "Had he fallen from the car of victory, or died on the throne of the Louvre, *eleven Kings*, his *Vassals*, might have attended their Master to his last abode. To the subsequent passage, Messieurs the Ultras at least will exceedingly demur:—

And viewing midst of the funereal throng,
A tender Infant borne in state along,
His father's ashes following to the grave,
The people cry, "Oh Heav'n, his offspring save;
"Preserve the issue of the man we prize,
"The *Empire's* honor to eternalize;
"To carry down his lofty Parent's name,
"His genius, fortune, dignity, and fame!"

This is tolerably significant, and has doubtless procured the author the honor of especial *surveillance*. It has however a great deal of common-place nature about it, especially for Frenchmen, who, to say the truth, in point of sentiment, are usually attached to the high turnpike-road of admiration. M. Lebrun, for instance, can scarcely forgive even Buonaparte for the *manner* of his Death, which he evidently considers ignominious—(to whom?)—Alexander, in his opinion, is still the model of the most unmixed and exalted destiny. Had Napoleon fallen "from the Car of Victory" at *his* age, what a death would he have avoided! True; but he would never have established the *Code Civil*, for which ages to come will honour him.* Alexander's conquests, and most of their consequences, died with him; the conquests of Napoleon have shared the same fate; but *their* result, we apprehend, will gradually change the face of all Europe, including among the rest the country which gave Alexander birth.

The wonderful faculty of Napoleon in attaching people to him, is pleasingly generalized in the following passage:—

"Il est, il est dans le génie
"Un ascendant, un charme, un attrait enchanté:
"Une force puissante, aveugle, indéfinie,
"Nous entraine vers lui comme vers la beauté.
"Comme elle, il séduit la jeunesse;
"Comme elle, il répand une ivresse
"Qui trouble l'âme et la raison,
"Et dont l'invincible poison
"Une fois éprouvé nous subjugue sans cesse.
"Il peut nous tromper, nous trahir,
"Nous contraindre de la haïr,
"Mais, comment oublier la foi jadis donnée!
"Comment perdre jamais ce premier sentiment,
"Cette admiration tendre et passionnée,
"Que les plus détrompés repoussent vainement?
"On le blâme, on l'accuse, on le hait, on l'abhorre;
"Mais notre cœur souvent en secret se dédit,
"Et, même alors qu'il le maudit,
"Se surprend à l'aimer encore."

"There is in genius a charm—a spell—
"A vague, indefinite, yet mighty force,
"Which does, like beauty, our regard compel,
"Quickening the young blood in its rapid course.
"Like beauty, too, it makes the bosom swell,
"And troubles reason to its very source,
"Diffusing such a poison through each vein
"As, once received, for ever must remain.

* The venerable Mr. Butler, in his "*Reminiscences*," has magnanimously done justice to this noble consummation, as well as to the genius and heart of Napoleon in [illegible]

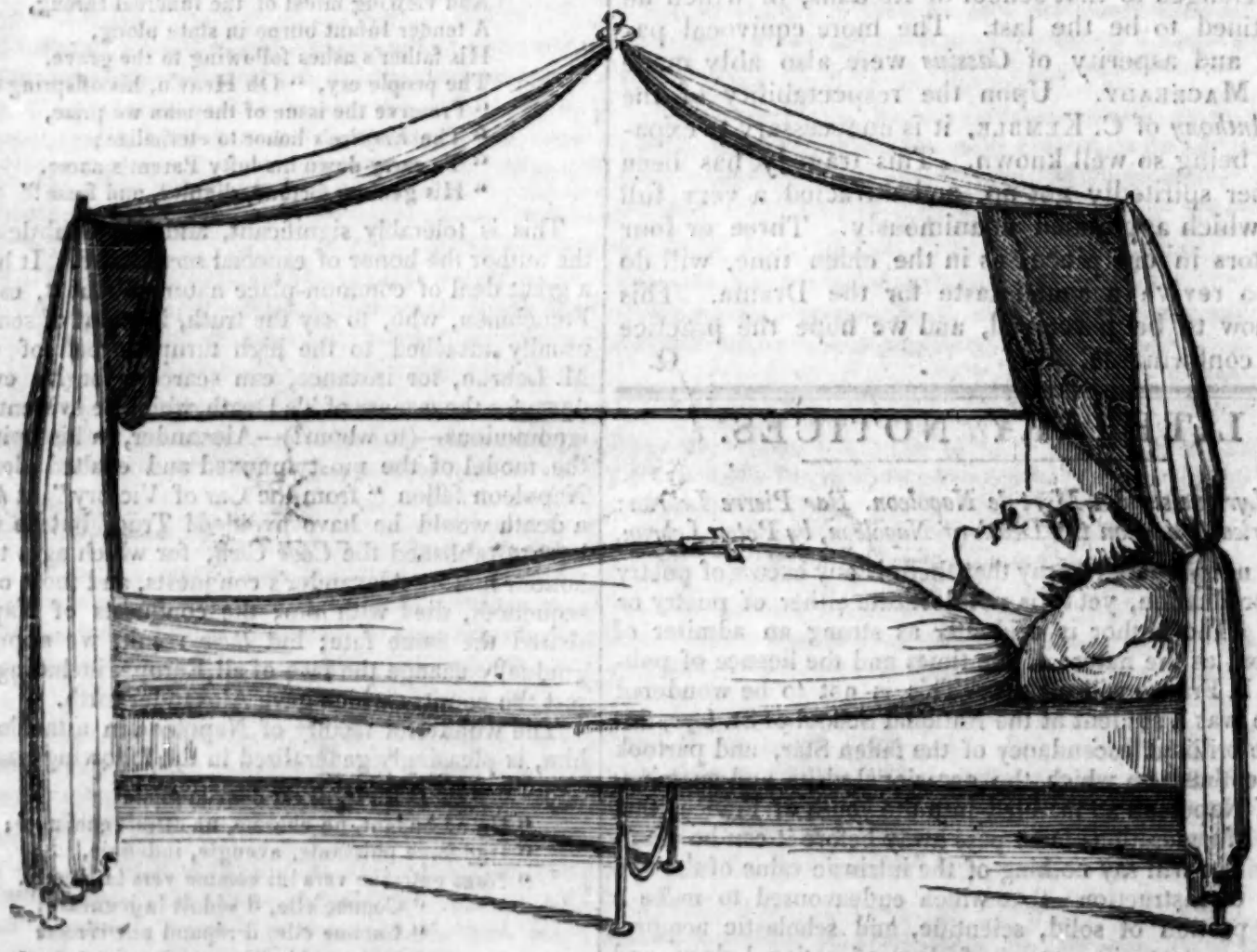
"It may deceive, betray, and make us hate,
"But how forget the faith that once we swore?
"How lose that feeling, warm and passionate,
"Which at first led us almost to adore,
"Which we, though undeceived, resist too late?
"We blame, detest, accuse—and we abhor;
"But often does our heart belie our tongue,
"And for its curses find its love too strong."

The author, a scholar in the School of St. Cyr, describes the effect of this involuntary admiration upon himself. The passage is truly French; but had it happened to our own glorious Monarch, in Dublin or Edinburgh, the *Morning Post* or *New Times* would have made it as perfectly English. Led one day to St. Cyr, to "rest from Victory," among the rest of the scholars, Napoleon asked the author to what future pursuit his wishes were directed? "To sing your glory, Sire," was the gallant reply. This, we suppose, is loyalty both in the old and the new school. M. Chateaubriand very likely said something like this to the Duke of Berry; and, like M. Lebrun, has written a book after the death of *his* hero, to prove his assertion.

There are a few eloquent passages in this poem, especially one recalling the grandeur of Napoleon's Coronation, and contrasting it with the mournful circumstances of his Death. An address to the soldiery, at the close of this description, we suspect was not very pleasant in certain quarters, recalling as it does, the known call upon them by Napoleon in the hour of death, and expressing warm indignation that his remains were not returned to France in conformity with his dying wishes.

This effusion, upon the whole, is above mediocrity; but it is not as a poem we have been led to notice it, but rather as supplying an example of the attachment and sentiment which will for a long time distinguish the cultivated adolescence and younger manhood of France, as also of the boldness with which it is uttered. In this respect, it is curious, and exhibits another small but pointed proof of the frail tenure by which existing power is upheld. Q.

NAPOLEON'S DEATH-BED.



YES; there behold him on a funeral bed;
Sceptre nor banner now is near him seen,
Nor warlike pomp, nor warrior whom he led:—
Alone he fronts Death's pale and awful mien!
That sunken eye, pale cheek, and fallen brow,
Have then a death of quiet sickness found:

How is this famous Combatant laid low!
Without a battle and without a wound!
Oh what a Conqueror's defeated here!
How many sceptres fall from his chill hand!
How many images throng round his bier
Of combats, glory, and supreme command!

P. LEBRUN.

NEWSPAPER CHAT.

A CONSIDERATE HUSBAND.—A man of the name of *Marley*, was sentenced to be hanged at the last Assizes, for stealing a mare, but has since been respited. Marley's contrivance to make money, during the few days he had to live, deserves to be recorded for its novelty and ingenuity. He actually made application to be permitted to perform the office of executioner on a person who was to suffer before him, stating, "he would earn thereby a certain sum; and if the favour was granted him, of allowing his wife to hang himself, he was sure she would do it as well and as *tenderly* as any person that could be found; and the creature," he said, "would then have, by the produce of *both* jobs, wherewithal to pay her rent."—*Mayo Constitution.*

A lady some time back, on a visit to the British Museum, asked the person in attendance if they had a *skull of Oliver Cromwell!* Being answered in the negative, "Dear me," said she, "that's very strange; *they have one at Oxford.*"

A subscription is going on for a monument to T. DIBDIN, the naval song-writer.

By the sale of the furniture and the materials of Wanstead House, and the letting of a portion of the land on building leases, Mr. LONG WELLESLEY, it is said, will add upwards of 10,000*l.* per annum to his income.

T. MOORE, the great lyrical poet of our day, is returned from Paris. It is said to be Mr. MOORE's intention to fix his future residence near the Metropolis.

We have been informed on good authority, that Mr. Sergeant HULLOCK is not likely in future to come this circuit, as he is shortly to become Solicitor-General in the room of Sir J. COPLEY, who will be made Attorney-General; and Sir R. GIFFORD will be elevated to the Bench, in the place of Baron WOOD, who retires. We also hear that a silk gown has been offered to Mr. BROUGHAM, on the ground of his having been Attorney-General to her late Majesty, but that he has declined accepting it unless a similar compliment is paid to Mr. DENMAN; though he has no objection to receive one, if offered him without reference to his late appointment as principal legal adviser to the late Queen.—*Durham Chronicle.*

CITY PLEADERS.—These places are mere matters of bargain and sale. The late Recorder stepped from one of them into the Common Sergeantship, and from thence into the office of Recorder. Mr. Knowlys, the present Recorder, bought his office of Pleader when he was appointed Common Sergeant, and sold it for 1,000*l.* to Mr. Bolland. The annual profits far exceed the interest of the money. Though the Corporation, wishing to put an end to such a disreputable traffic, requested Mr. Bolland and the other pleaders, in 1804, to give them the preference as purchasers of his place; they all declined.

In the western part of the county of Monmouth, we regret to state that the refractory workmen have been increased in number by some thousands from the Rock, Tredegar, Sirhowey, and Pont-y-pool works. The Scotch Greys have remained at Abergavenny; and the knowledge that the County Cavalry are on the alert, and that application has been made for some infantry, deters from actual violence; but this state of things, it is feared, cannot last. In the day-time, the men spread themselves through the county, and solicit charity, with which they support their families; in the evenings they blacken their faces, assemble on the hills, and use the most horrible threats to deter those who think half a loaf better than no bread, from working under the regular prices.—*Glocester Journal.*

ENGLISH CHARACTER.—The national character of the English is pride, and the meanest of all pride,—*purse-pride.* Even a poor lord is despised; and to increase his fortune, a necessitous peer will *condescend* to marry into a rich citizen's family. An overweaning affection for money, an idolatrous worship of gain, have absolutely confounded the general intellect, and warped the judgment of many, to that excess, that in estimating men or things, they refer always to "What is he worth?" or, "What will it fetch?"—Were we to point out a person and say,—"There goes a *good* man, one who has not a vice,"—he would scarcely be noticed; —but exclaim, "That man is worth 500,000*l.*"—and he will be stared at till out of sight. This sordid habit of thinking was finely hit off, by a keen fellow of a neighbouring nation, who had carried on business in London and failed. Sitting in a coffee-house one day, where a few wealthy citizens were discussing some money-concerns, and observing him very attentive, one person turned aside and said to him, "What's your opinion, Sir, of the matter?" "S'blood, Sir," returned he, peevishly, "what opinion can a man have in *this* country, who has not a *guinea* in his pocket?"—This makes good what Mr. Burke says,—"That a merchant has no *faith* but in his banker; his ledger is his *bible*; the Exchange is his *church*; the desk his *altar*, and his money is his *god*."—*Trusler's Life.*

MURDEROUS QUIBBLER.—When Edward II. was in prison, and the persons who had the care of him were dilatory in putting an end to his life; Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Hereford, wrote to them in order to quicken them, couching his precept in the following sentence:—"Edwardum occidere nolite timere bonum est;"—which admits of a quite different sense, according as a *comma* is put *before* or *after* the verb timere. The force of this ambiguity cannot be transferred into our language, on account of the sign *to*, which is necessary before *infinitives* The following is a bald translation of the line:—"Do not slay Edward, it is good to fear:"—(or,) "Do not fear to slay Edward, it is good."

A SNAKE IN THE GRASS!—A live snake, nearly a yard long, was seen on Wednesday in the middle of the day in the railings of Leicester-square, on the green. It lay quite dormant, till a person with a stick turned it over, when it made off among the shrubs.—(*Herald.*)—A correspondent, with the above, has sent us the following passage from Howe's Letters, vol. 1.:—"God preserve us from public calamities,—for serpentine monsters have been often ill-favoured presages. I remember in the Roman story to have read, how when snakes or serpents were found near the statues of their gods,—as one time about Jupiter's neck, another time about Minerva's thigh,—there followed bloody civil wars after it."

HEARING.—It is certain (says Mr. Evelyn in a letter to Dr. Beale) that we hear more accurately when we hold our mouths a little open, than when we keep them shut: and I could name a friend of mine, who, though he be exceedingly thick of hearing, by applying a strait stick, of what length soever, provided it touch the instrument and his ear, does perfectly and with great pleasure hear every tune that is played.—One Tom Whittal, a student of Christ Church, would maintain, that if a hole could dextrously be bored through the skull to the brain, in the midst of the forehead, a man might see and hear and smell without the use of any other organs! But you are to know, that this learned problematist was brother to him who, preaching at St. Mary's, Oxford, took his text out of the History of Balaam—"Am I not thine ass?"

FINE GENTLEMEN.—Mr. Evelyn, speaking of a tract he had composed, which a friend had lost, remarks,—"Nor was it without some purpose of one day publishing it, because it was written with a virtuous design of provoking our Court Fops, and for encouragement of illustrious persons, who have leisure and inclinations to cultivate their minds beyond a farce, a horse, a whore, and a dog, —which, with very little more, are the confines of the knowledge and discourse of most of our Fine Gentlemen and Beaux."—This was in Charles the Second's reign. Does or does not the character apply in this our own virtuous Sovereign's?

HEBREW LEARNING.—Gilbert Wakefield says, "This I lay down as an incontrovertible truth, that no man can acquire an *adequate* knowledge of the phraseology of the New Testament, and consequently of its *meaning*, without an intimate acquaintance with the powers and peculiarities of the Hebrew tongue"—How comfortable this must be for the thousands who pore over the book all their lives without knowing even the Hebrew character: but as Gilbert Wakefield was an eminent teacher of Hebrew, perhaps this opinion was only meant as a sort of puff or advertisement for scholars.—D. E. W.

DIVINE METAPHYSICS.—Butler, in his *Analogy* (Chap. 1st.) asserts, that "Our organized bodies are no more ourselves, or *part of ourselves*, than any other matter around us."—Who could have conceived such a thing, if the Christian Bishop had not divulged it to us?—D. E. W.

ENLIGHTENED TIMES!—When that renowned Christian author, Sir Matthew Hale, sat as a judge, and on the 10th March, 1664, condemned Amy Duny and Rose Callender to be burnt as witches, he concluded his charge to the jury by praying "That the great God of Heaven would direct their hearts in this weighty matter." But Christianity was then only 1664 years old, and consequently not well understood.—We don't now-a-days burn people for witchcraft, we only fine and incarcerate them for deism.—D. E. W.

CORPORATION FLUMMERY.—On Charles the First's return through York from Scotland, the Mayor of that city made a flaming speech, in which the presence of that hypocrite and oppressor was thus hailed:—"Our well-tuned bells at the present time, to congratulate the welcome of so great a Prince, tune themselves, and do willingly stand, as if Time commanded them soe to doe. Our wives conceive with joye, our children's tongues are untyed with alacrity, and each one doth strive to cry welcome home to so *indulgent a Soveraigne:* our fields do seeme triumphing in their gay diapry—[*this was in November*]—to welcome home your Sacred Majesty: the woods doe seeme to contemne a falling autumne or a nipping winter, and assume unto themselves their spring liveries; and all to welcome home your Most Sacred Majesty!"—This is just such bombastical and lying stuff as the Curtises and Dixons of London would incense George the Fourth with, did not a better spirit luckily prevail in the Corporation.

The *Morning Chronicle* of Thursday contained the following marvellous paragraph:—"A remarkable circumstance has occurred within these few weeks at Bagshot. Four women have been delivered of children, and each with the loss of a right hand above the wrist. The only way the circumstance can be accounted for, is, that the postman who delivers the letters has the same defect, and it is supposed that on his delivering the letters, his appearance made an impression on the minds of the women when in a state of pregnancy."

GLUTTONY.—On Sunday, a keelman at Shieldfield, undertook to devour 12 penny rolls in an hour and a half, out of pure love of eating, and a desire to shew the extent of his *capacity*. The task he performed with great ease 6 minutes within the given time; and then offered to swallow 33 two-penny pies, if any of the party would supply him; but this, without doubting his abilities, they declined.

BLASPHEMY.—Amidst all the cant (says our Correspondent C. P. F.) which we are condemned to hear on the subject of Lord Byron's History of Cain, from those shallow and grave personages, who think "Religion a very good sort of thing, which ought to be countenanced"—the following passage, which I lately met with in Capell's Notes on Shakespear's Antony and Cleopatra, may afford your readers some insight as to the nature of the antient mysteries; and give that unthinking part of the public, who are apt to be misled by dogmatical assertions delivered from *places of authority*, room to suspect that hypocrisy and bigotry, more than blasphemy

and irreligion, are the besetting sins of our day.—The Commentator, in some very ingenious remarks on the defects of the fitting up of the stage on which Shakespear's plays were brought out—observes, "Scenes were unknown to it; all its decorations were, certain arras or tapestries in front, and some on the sides, with slips between; the platform was double, the hinder or back part of it rising some little matter above that in the front; and this served them for chambers or galleries, for Juliet to hold discourse with Romeo, and for Cleopatra in this play to draw up Antony dying, &c. That this was their stage's construction, and continued to be so, (perhaps as low down as the general reform of it at the Restoration, the era of scenes and actresses) is evinced beyond doubting, from entries that are found in some plays of rather a later date than the poet's; in which are seen the terms *upper* and *lower:* and dialogues pass between persons, standing some on the one, and some on the other stage, and this form it received from the earliest pieces produced on it, the Mysteries; for the exhibition of which, the platform had yet another division; a part beyond the two we are speaking of, and rising higher than them; upon which appeared their PATER CŒLESTIS, attended by angels; patriarchs and glorified persons upon that in the middle, and mere men on the lowermost; and Hell (a most necessary member of these curious productions, for without, there had been no entertainment for some of their auditors) was represented by a great gaping hole on the side of that platform, that vomited something like flames; out of which their *greatest jokers*, the devils, ascended at times, and mixed with the men; and into which they were commonly driven in heaps at the drama's conclusion: but this hell and the higher division vanished with the Mysteries, and the stage's form, after that, was as above."—I only add, that I would recommend a certain *learned Lord* to take this account "*home and read it*,"—and pause before he break down any more of those bulwarks that are raised in defence of the liberty of the press.

MONUMENT TO GEO. III.—The subscriptions seem to come in very slowly; which is no great wonder, considering the nature of the times, the inferiority of the proposed work of art, and the better judgment that now prevails respecting the character of the late King, which in truth was of a very common-place order; and the effects too of his hatred of Reform and fondness for War are now sufficiently felt by all classes. At the same time, one cannot but smile at seeing so many "*very* loyal" names in the list, with a miserable one pound note at the end! The spectacle of Generals, Colonels, Baronets, Knights, Squires, and Reverends, most of whom owed their elevation to the deceased Monarch, all sneaking in with their twenty shillings tribute of loyalty and gratitude, should remind living Kings that it is dangerous to put their trust in Courtiers.—These sort of gentry seem to think with the old proverb, that "a live dog is better than a dead lion."

A GREAT MAN!—The Dublin Society, enlarging upon Serjeant Kite's principle, that "a recruit six feet high was born to be a great man,"—is erecting a Statue in honour of Geo. IV. which is to be *seven* feet high.—Marble, we suppose—and a solid block!

CLASSICAL COACHMAN.—Jacob Bobart, a German, was appointed the first Keeper of the Physic Garden at Oxford. One of this family was bred up at College, in Oxford, but quitted his studies for the profession of the Whip, driving one of the Oxford coaches (his own property) for many years, with great credit. In 1813 he broke his leg by an accident; and in 1814, from the respect he had acquired by his good conduct, he was appointed one of the Esquire Bedles to the University.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH,

Tuesday, April 22.

THE KING *v.* KNATCHBULL AND OTHERS.

This was an indictment against Charles Knatchbull, Esq. James D. Fowell, and John Charles Partridge, Gentlemen, Attorneys at Law, for a conspiracy. The defendant, Mr. Knatchbull, was one of the younger sons of the late Sir Edward Knatchbull, Member for the County of Kent, the other defendants, solicitors in Nicholas-lane. By the will of Sir Edward, his younger children were left legacies of 300*l.* each, and by the marriage-settlement of their mother they were entitled to 3,000*l.* each, which sums were paid to the defendant, Charles Knatchbull, by the representative of the family.—Charles Knatchbull having contracted a debt to Mr. Worrall, of the Hoop Tavern, Park-street, gave his bill for 100*l.* at two months, representing himself as entitled to the sums above alluded to, under his father's settlement. Before the bill was due, he incurred a fresh debt of 50*l.* to the same party, for which he gave another bill at two months. These bills were indorsed to Messrs. Stonehouse and Co., wine-merchants, of Mincing-lane, before they became due, Charles intimated to the holders his inability to take them up, but represented his willingness to assign to them what was due to him under his father's will, in consideration of their forbearing to sue him. Messrs. Fowell and Partridge were referred to as his attorneys, by whom the assignment was executed. To affect the defendants, Messrs. Fowell and Partridge's evidence was adduced, showing, that they had represented to the prosecutors that Mr. C. Knatchbull was entitled to the above sums of 300*l.* and 3,000*l.*, and that they had actually filed a bill against the executors for the recovery of the sums due to Mr. John Knatchbull, another of the children of Sir Edward, the fact not being so, the money having been voluntarily paid by the present Sir Edward Knatchbull.

The Jury retired for half an hour, and found all the Defendants *Guilty*.

OLD BAILEY.

On Tuesday, *William Piessee* was charged with forging and uttering a draft for 30*l.* to Mr. Glover, grocer, in Aldgate High-street, in payment for a quantity of goods. The case was proved by several witnesses, but Mr. ALLEY took an objection, which Mr. Justice PARK considered well founded, and the prisoner was acquitted.—He was again indicted for passing a forged check to Mr. B. Hopwood, and the Jury found the prisoner *Guilty—Death*.

Eleanor Shrieves, aged 25, for maliciously setting fire to the dwelling-house of J. Revett, of Deer-street, was also capitally convicted. The prisoner lived as servant with the prosecutor; she was sent to chapel on the evening of the fire; on her return she went up stairs with a light, and soon after the bed was discovered to be on fire, and on the prisoner being acquainted with it, she neither expressed any surprise, nor gave any aid to extinguish it. A cash-box, which was under the mattress, and which the prisoner knew to contain a 20*l.* note, was also forced open, and the note abstracted. She made no defence.—[The evidence in this case seemed to us very imperfect.]

On Wednesday, *John Mackiah Collins*, a squalid-looking fellow about forty, was indicted for marrying Jane Blanks, Elizabeth Mason, his former wife, being alive.—John Bloomfield saw prisoner married to Elizabeth Mason. Witness believes she was possessed of 600*l.*—Jane Blanks knew the prisoner; he went to church with her in June, 1821; said he was a widower, and a man of property; witness knew him three months before he married her.—Elizabeth Mason, a very handsome young woman, was called, in order to be identified; she held in her arms a beautiful child; she was much affected.—The prisoner said, that Blanks and her father knew that he was a married man, and that Mr. Blanks first knew him when he was confined in Chelmsford goal for debt; he said that his wife was living in London with other men.—The Jury deliberated a few minutes, but on being informed that there were two other indictments for similar offences, they instantly returned a verdict of—*Guilty*.—The RECORDER told him that he was a vile fellow, to seduce respectable young women, and spend their money, thereby ruining their prospects for ever. He had been guilty of the vilest perjury; it was not fit that such a person should remain in this country.—Transported for seven years.

Wm. Rudland was indicted for embezzling 1*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, the property of Messrs. Charles and Thomas Lewis.—The prosecutors are silk-dyers in Oxendon-street, and the prisoner had been employed as a confidential clerk. The sum which the prisoner was charged with embezzling, was paid to the prisoner by Messrs. Barbers, tailors, in Pall-mall, on account of Messrs. Charles and Thomas Lewis.—A legal question arose, whether the money was properly described in the indictment.—The Jury found the prisoner *Guilty*, and the legal question was reserved for the consideration of the Judges.

On Thursday, *Ralph Boteler Johnson* (described in the calendar as "gentleman") was indicted for stealing a Bank of England note of 20*l.* the property of Nelly Proby, in her dwelling-house at Hampstead.—The prisoner was of a very smart appearance. He was dressed in a green hunting coat, top boots, breeches, and a buff waistcoat. He was about 36 years of age. When put to the bar, he bowed respectfully to the Court. He seemed considerably agitated. Several witnesses were called, but they could not give any account of the transaction; all the principal witnesses (Mrs. Proby among them) keeping themselves away. He was of course acquitted for want of evidence.

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION.

At five o'clock on Friday, the man who stands charged with publishing, in one of the numbers of *The Republican*, "A New Year's Address to the Reformers of Great Britain," was put to the bar.

Mr. SHELTON said, Prisoner, have you any thing more to say now than you did at the last Session?

Prisoner—Yes; what do you wish me to say? I wish to be tried immediately.

Mr. SHELTON—Are you guilty of this indictment, or are you not? Will you give your name?

Prisoner—No, I will not.

The RECORDER—Then you will be remanded.

Prisoner—I have already been confined four months; and I wish now to be tried.

RECORDER—Take him away; we will see whether he or the law is the strongest.

Prisoner—I wish to be put on my trial.

RECORDER—If you will not give your name, the Court will remand you.

The prisoner was then removed from the bar, and Mr. Murray and the other Inquisitors left the Court.

SPRING ASSIZES.

STAFFORD.—CONSPIRACY TO MURDER A NEAR RELATION.—*James Slack*, *Sarah Slack*, *James Slack Mould*, and *Thomas Slack*, were indicted for a conspiracy in hiring John Mountjoy to kill and murder Joseph Slack, the brother of the prisoner James Slack.

Joseph Slack proved that James Slack Mould and Thomas Slack frequently went to his house and used abusive and threatening language. It appeared that Joseph Slack had married in 1820, since which time there had been much "ill-blood" between him and his relations, the prisoners. Some land belonging to the prisoners, which had been mortgaged to Joseph, was now the property of the latter. The witness to prove the conspiracy was John Mountjoy, an Irishman, who undertook to *do the job* for five guineas. He swore that he was engaged to murder Joseph Slack, on his return from Leek fair on the 23d of March, 1821; he was to perform his work with a cleaver, but was desired by prisoners to do it with the flat sides, or it would be *called* wilful murder! Thomas Slack said, "I will have rum with me, and will pour it down his mouth, and sprinkle it on his body in such a way that the doctors and gentlemen will testify he got drunk and killed himself in coming from Leek fair." The female prisoner said to him (witness) when he took the cleaver, "John, make sure of your blow."—"You need not be afraid of that, says I."

No witnesses were called for the prisoners, and the Jury, after consulting about a quarter of an hour, brought in a verdict against all the prisoners of—*Guilty of a conspiracy to murder*.

The CHAIRMAN first addressed J. Slack Mould and T. Slack. From what he knew of their character, he said, they would, if they did not take warning, inevitably come to an untimely end. They had been convicted, after a patient investigation, of a crime of a most heinous nature, little short of wilful murder—of the murder of a relative. He sentenced them to be imprisoned two years in the common gaol. To J. Slack, the Chairman said, it was a melancholy thing to see a man at his advanced season of life, convicted of a crime of the deepest die, a conspiracy to take away the life of his brother—(here the prosecutor, Joseph Slack, begged that mercy might be extended to the old man.) The Chairman observed, the recommendation should be attended to, as far as the ends of justice would allow; and sentenced him to be imprisoned one year. After commenting on the case of Sarah Slack, who, however, might be considered in some degree as under the influence of her husband, the Chairman sentenced her to be imprisoned six months.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

On Monday, *Edward Desmond* and *John Davis* were charged with being concerned in the commission of a very audacious robbery in the house of Mr. Russell, solicitor, Carey-street.—It appeared that the house was securely fastened on the night of Sunday, with the exception of a window in the office, which was only shut down. About two o'clock on Monday morning, the Rev. George Stokes, a clergyman lodging in Mr. Russell's house, was awoke by a noise, and saw four men standing by his bedside, one of whom had a pistol. They told him to be quiet or he would be silenced, and after asking one or two questions, three of them went down stairs, and Mr. Stokes heard them moving about. About ten minutes had elapsed, when Mr Stokes determined upon attempting to overpower the man who stood guard over him, and making a sudden spring, he seized the fellow, and a desperate scuffle ensued. Mr. Stokes knocked him down, but he recovered, and the struggle was resumed. It terminated finally in Mr. Stokes getting his antagonist to the top of the stairs, and pushing him down with great force. The noise of this scuffle alarmed the other three, as Mr. Stokes heard them run down to the bottom of the house. The noise also alarmed other persons in the house. A general outcry was raised, the house and adjoining premises were diligently searched, and the prisoner Desmond was found in the house, and Davis was discovered concealed underneath a table in a yard belonging to Mr. Platt's house in Boswell-court, to which he must have made his escape by the office window. On searching about, a watch and some other things stolen were discovered scattered about, as if dropped in the hurry. A dark lantern and other implements of house-breaking were found. There had been stolen from Mr. Stokes's room a gold watch, and from other parts of the house about 50*l*. in money, a silver tea-pot, and various other articles of plate. Among the property stolen were 20*l*. belonging to the maid-servant. The prisoners declined saying any thing in their defence, and were fully committed for trial.—They were both very young, and Sir R. BIRNIE said, he could not help regarding them with commiseration. They were both bookbinders, were both apprenticed to masters who turned out to be men of bad character; and they had both had their indentures cancelled, and were turned loose upon the world.—The prisoner Desmond, at the mention of these circumstances, burst into tears.

[Desmond and Davis were on Thursday tried and found guilty of the robbery, at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to be hung. Before the Recorder passed the awful sentence, Desmond fell convulsed into the arms of the Officer!]

THE DESERTED SON.—The youth, whose case we mentioned as having applied to the Magistrates for relief, in consequence of his father refusing to acknowledge him, attended again on Tuesday; and Sir RICHARD BIRNIE handed over to him a Bank note, which he had received for his use from a gentleman in Liverpool, who had read his story in the papers.—Sir RICHARD BIRNIE has received a number of communications from persons of respectability, all of them corroborative of the facts stated by the unfortunate youth.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Monday evening, the attention of some brickmakers, at work in Bow Common Fields, close to the river Lea, was arrested by the appearance of a fashionably attired female, who, after having wandered about some time, plunged into the water. She was taken out, and when recovered, related a distressing tale of seduction, which, she said, had prompted her to attempt the rash act; she gave the residence of her father, a respectable tradesman in the Borough, where she was taken.

Monday evening, a young woman of respectable appearance, rushed down the declivity surrounding the Tower ditch, and threw herself in; she was, however, saved by the assistance of two young men, who, at the risk of their own lives, rescued her from a watery grave. This rash action she attributed to great distress, but she refused to give any account of herself.

On Tuesday morning the awful sentence of the law was carried into effect upon the person of *Thomas Dallon*, aged 45, on the top of Horsemonger-lane gaol. This man was convicted of a rape on a child, aged 10, under circumstances of very great aggravation. He was so weak that he was obliged to be supported up the ladder to the top of the prison; being placed on the drop, the executioner performed his office, and the wretched man advanced to the front of the platform, and loudly declared "he was as innocent as the child unborn; he never injured the child, and he hoped for mercy and the prayers of the people." After 20 minutes being spent in prayer, the drop fell, and he was launched into eternity.

On Tuesday an Inquest was held on *Mr. Lloyd*, silversmith, in Charles-street, Hatton-garden. The deceased on Tuesday morning went to a chemist's, of the name of Sheppard, and asked for a quantity of oxalic acid, for cleaning boot tops, which was sold to him, and directions were given how to use it. He proceeded to the house of a Mr. Fuller, in Charles-street, and being asked to breakfast, took his seat. He said he was unwell, and had been purchasing some salts, and requested a little water; which being given, he drank them off, and in a few minutes died in the most excruciating agony, the interior of his stomach being entirely destroyed. He has left a wife and several children. Evidence being given of mental aberration, the Jury returned a verdict of—*Insanity*.

Tuesday night, Mr. Willis, turner, of East-lane, Borough, returning home from the Kent-road, was accosted near the ruins at Newington by a man, who demanded half a crown; a second man rushed up, and with one blow of a heavy bludgeon laid Mr. W. senseless; the villains then took what money he had and his watch, and got clear off.

Wednesday night, Mr. Cooper, of Theobald's-road, was knocked down in Oxford-street, and robbed of twenty-four shillings in silver. The villains escaped with all speed.

On Friday, an Inquisition was taken on the bodies of *Charles Bowles*, six years old, and *Elizabeth Bowles*, his aunt, aged 26.—The CORONER said, the surveyor for the district should examine all houses in a dilapidated state.—The Jury were satisfied it was the removal of the chimneys in the party wall occasioned the accident, and a verdict of Accidental Death, occasioned by the want of due precaution in the repairing of the party wall, was returned.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY-LANE.

TO-MORROW, APRIL 29, will be performed the Tragedy of ROMEO and JULIET. Romeo, Mr. KEAN; Mercutio, Mr. ELLISTON; Juliet, Miss P. GLOVER, (her first attempt on any Stage.)
On TUESDAY, The HAUNTED TOWER.
On WEDNESDAY, A TRAGEDY, in which Mr. KEAN will perform.
On THURSDAY, The Tragic Play of PIZARRO. Rolla, Mr. KEAN.
On FRIDAY, The Tragedy of OTHELLO. Othello, Mr. KEAN.
On SATURDAY, The SIEGE of BELGRADE.

ADELPHI THEATRE, STRAND.

OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY.

MONSIEUR ALEXANDRE, the celebrated Dramatic Ventriloquist, will deliver an entirely New Comic, Characteristic, Vocalic, Mimetic, Multiformical, Manifoquous, Ubiquitarical Entertainment, in Three Parts (in English), constructed expressly for this occasion, and entitled THE ADVENTURES of a VENTRILOQUIST, or the ROGUERIES of NICHOLAS.—Part I. Food and Physic—Cupid turned Chimney-sweep.—Part II. Wine and the Tooth-Ache, or the Biter Bit.—Part III. Curtain Lectures—Jack in the Box. The whole embodied, illustrated, and delivered by M. ALEXANDRE.

In consequence of the numerous inquiries continually making for the next representation of the Original Piece of TOM and JERRY, produced at this Theatre, the Public are respectfully informed that it cannot be played again till October next.

WEST'S New and Extensive Rooms, No. 14, Newman-street, Oxford-street, are now open, containing 140 PICTURES painted by the late BENJAMIN WEST, Esq. President of the Royal Academy. Among the 61 new subjects in the present Exhibition are, The Death of Lord Nelson—The Death of General Wolfe—The Battle of La Hogue—and the Rescue of a wounded French Officer from the Tomahawk of a North American Indian, &c. &c. On view every day from ten till five.—Admittance 1s.
No. 14, Newman-street. CHARLES SMART, Secretary.

MESSRS. T. and G. FOGGO'S GREAT PICTURE, representing the PEOPLE of PARGA assembled round the FUNERAL-PILE, previous to their Embarkation in 1819, is now EXHIBITING in Maddox-street, Bond-street, facing St. George's Church.
Admittance, 1s.

ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—Patron, his Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX, K. G.—The Subscribers and Friends to this Institution are respectfully informed, that the EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER will take place in Freemasons' Hall, on Friday the 3rd of May.
His Royal Highness the Duke of YORK & ALBANY, K.G. in the Chair.

STEWARDS.

H. S. H. the Prince Esterhazy.	His Gr. the D. of Newcastle, K.G.	
His Grace the D. of Rutland, K.G.	Most Noble the M. of Lansdowne.	
Rt. Hon. Earl of Ashburnham.	Rt. Hon. Earl of Blessinton.	
Rt. Hon. Earl of Dartmouth.	Rt. Hon. Earl of Liverpool, K.G.	
Rt. Hon. Earl of Shaftesbury.	Rt. Hon. Lord Stawell.	
W. Allan, Esq.	R. B. Peake, Esq.	G. R. Ward, Esq.
W. Bolmes, Esq.	J. B. Papworth, Esq.	John Ward, Esq.
John Burnett, Esq.	J. F. Robson, Esq.	Fred. Webb, Esq.
T. Clater, Esq.	R. W. Sievier, Esq.	C. C. Wilson, Esq.
H. Colnaghi, Esq.	J. Slater, Esq.	J. Wilson, Esq.
T. Dawtinggen, Esq.	C. Stanfield, Esq.	W. Wilson, Esq.
F. Goodwin, Esq.	C. Turner, Esq.	S. Woodburn, Esq.
T. C. Hofland, Esq.	John Turner, Esq.	&c. &c. &c.

Dinner on Table at 5 o'clock. Tickets (including wine) at 1l. 1s. each, may be had at the Secretary's, 65, Upper Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square; of Mr. Roper, Assistant Secretary, 12, Francis-street, Bedford-square; at the Freemasons' Tavern; and of the Stewards.
JOHN YOUNG, Hon. Sec.

Just published, price 1s. 6d.

A LETTER to the BURGESSES of COLCHESTER, containing a Plain Statement of the Proceedings before the Benchers of the Inner Temple, upon his application to be called to the Bar, and upon his Appeal to the Judges.
By D. W. HARVEY, Esq.
May be had of Ridgway, Piccadilly; Hunter, Bell-yard; Richardson, Cornhill; and Hunter, St. Paul's Church-yard.

In the press, and speedily will be published, Four Volumes, 8vo.

A New Translation of the EPISTLES of the APOSTLE PAUL, with an EXPOSITION and NOTES.
By the Rev. THOMAS BELSHAM, Minister of Essex-street Chapel.
Printed for R. Hunter, 72 St. Paul's Church-yard.

ARGYLL ROOMS.

Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Duke of YORK.
On Tuesday evening, April 30th, 1822,

MR. PUTNAM will have the honour to present a SELECTION of READINGS and RECITATIONS.—Admission 5s.—Tickets may be had at the Libraries of Mr. Ebers, 27, Old Bond-street; of Mr. Sams, 1, St. James's-street; at the Argyll Rooms; and of Mr. Putnam, 50, Frith-street, Soho.

The Doors will be opened at Half past Seven, and the Readings commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

Mr. Putnam gives instruction in Elocution, and in the higher branches of English Reading.

This day is published, price 1s. 6d.

CATALOGUE of COLBURN and CO.'s ILLUSTRATIVE LIBRARY, containing a Splendid Series of Picturesque and Architectural Views, principally coloured, illustrative of the History, Manners, and Antiquities of every Age and Country.

On the publication of this first Catalogue of their ILLUSTRATIVE LIBRARY (which they have also the pleasure to present as the first of its kind,) Messrs. Colburn and Co. beg leave to express their hope, that the appropriating to the use of their Subscribers the costly collection of Splendid Works which it describes, will be considered a satisfactory proof of their determination to spare no expence in order to render their Establishment a constant source of the most agreeable information and entertainment; whilst to those who have hitherto sought in vain for such works in a collected form, they doubt not the accumulation of so interesting an assemblage will not fail to prove particularly gratifying.

The above, with Card of terms and Address for 1822 (just published) to be had at the Library.
Conduit-street, April 20th, 1822.

LACON, A SECOND VOLUME. Price 7s.

THIS day is published, the Second Volume of LACON, being the completion of the Work. Also the Twelfth Edition of the 1st Volume.
Sold by Messrs. Longman & Co. and all other Booksellers.

N. B. As Lacon has gone through many editions in America, any Agent inclined to treat for the Second Volume, may be consulted with, on application to the Author's Publisher.

A MAGAZINE in FRENCH, to be published in London.

ON the 1st June, 1822, will be published, No. I. price 1s. 6d. of a Magazine, LE MUSEE DES VARIETES LITTERAIRES.—It is a remarkable circumstance, that notwithstanding the variety of monthly publications which are printed in the French capital, there is not a single work of a miscellaneous character on the plan of our Magazines. To supply this desideratum, and particularly to encourage a more intimate acquaintance with a language that may almost be termed universal, a Society of Gentlemen, of literary attainments, have undertaken to produce an interesting Periodical Work, containing all the varieties which can constitute a pleasing Monthly Miscellany.

London: printed for SAMUEL LEIGH, 18, Strand, where all Communications to the Editors must be addressed.

A NEW WEEKLY LITERARY JOURNAL.

Yesterday was published, price 8d. in London and its environs, and 1s. if sent free by Post, No. I. of

THE MUSEUM, or Record of Literature, Fine Arts, Sciences, Antiquities, the Drama, &c. (Published early every Saturday morning.) Containing

Introductory Address—Relative Advantages of Beauty and Accomplishments—Sketch of Paris—Building and Management of Churches and Chapels—Detailed Account of Wilkie's new and only Painting, in the approaching Exhibition—Critical Remarks on the present State of the Drama—The Picture Book—Varieties—Reviews of Graham Hamilton, and Adam Blair—A list of Places and Amusements now open; which will be continued regularly—Journal of the Weather, &c. &c.

This Work will be devoted to—1. General Literature—2. The Belles Lettres and Fine Arts—3. Science, Scientific Discoveries, &c.—4. Antiquities and Biography—5. Facetiæ and Varieties, in prose and verse.—The Museum is neatly printed in quarto, containing 16 pages.

Orders for this Paper will be received by Mr. Miller, 69, Fleet-street, and all other Booksellers in Town and Country. It may also be procured regularly by giving a general Order to all Newsmen, Postmasters, and Clerks of Roads, in the same manner as for any Newspaper, Magazine, &c.

LARGE STOCK OF BOOKS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr. HONE, at his Great Rooms, 45, Ludgate-hill, TOMORROW (Monday), AND NEXT DAY (Tuesday), at half-past Twelve o'clock to a minute,

THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND VOLUMES OF BOOKS, in boards and quires, part of the STOCK OF Mr. J. J. STOCKDALE, relinquishing the retail business, and removing from Pall-mall (a Sale not being allowed on the Premises), to No. 90, Strand: consisting of History, Biography, Voyages, Travels, Medical Works; Novels, by the Rev. Weeden Butler, Mr. Charles Phillips, and Mrs. Nathan; Poetry, Satire, Facetiæ, &c. Many of the Publications are with colored Plates, and large quantities of the remaining Copies are in single Lots with the Coppers. The whole to be sold without the least reserve. May be viewed, and Catalogues had (gratis) at the Rooms.

TO STEREOTYPE-FOUNDERS, PRINTERS, BOOKSELLERS, &c.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr. HONE, at his Great Rooms, 45, Ludgate-hill, ON FRIDAY NEXT, the 3rd of May, at Twelve for One o'clock precisely.

THE ENTIRE STEREOTYPE FOUNDRY APPARATUS and the remaining Printing Materials of Mr. ANDREW WILSON, comprising a large assortment of turned Iron, and Brass Chases, Iron and Brass Furniture, Moulding and Casting Apparatus, on the most approved principle, manufactured in a very superior manner; Iron Ovens, a capital double motion crane, about 1000 pounds weight of Nonpareil and Pearl, Stanhope Printing Presses, an Hydrostatic Press, a four feet square Purbeck Stone Table, &c. an excellent Forcing Pump, a large quantity of excellent Poling, Book Shelves, and Racks, Gathering Boards, and the whole of the Warehouse Fixtures.

May be viewed two days before the sale, at the Stereotype Office, Camden-town, (near St. Pancras Church), where, and at the place of sale, Catalogues may be had.

MARRIAGES.

Saturday week, at Clifton, Charles Fred. Williams, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, Barrister-at-law, to Elizabeth Wylde Browne, youngest daughter of the late Ralph Browne Wylde Browne, of Caughley, Salop.

On Tuesday, Samuel Helbert Israel, Esq., of Clapham, to Fanny, youngest daughter of the late Lyon de Symons, Esq. of Clapham-common.

On Thursday week, at St. Ann's, Westminster, John Middleton, Esq., Lieut. R. N., to Miss Scott, daughter of John Scott, Esq., Parliament-street, late Proprietor of the Sans Pareil Theatre.

On Tuesday, at Chiswick, Col. Gardiner, 6th Foot, to Maria, only daughter of the late Thos. Wildman, Esq.

On Saturday week, at Hereford, Richard Jones Powell, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, Barrister-at-law, (eldest son of Richard Powell, M. D.) to Martha Clee, only surviving daughter of the late William Downes, Esq. of Hinton, near Hereford.

DEATHS.

At Bath, on the 13th instant, Miss Anna C. Jones, aged 23 years.

On the 13th of February, Thomas Mackenzie, Esq., aged 67, late of Stoakefield, in Jamaica, and of Wolseley-park-house, Staffordshire.

On the 23rd instant, John Minshull, Esq., of Highgate, aged 77.

At Parkside, in the parish of Allendale, on the 19th instant, Mr. John Makepeace, gentleman, aged 100 years.

At Startforth, near Barnardcastle, the wife of Mr. John Galland. She went to bed in health, and died before four.

At Mr. Shaw's Academy, Bowes, on the 13th inst., Mr. Taylor, aged 19. He went to bed in health, and died before morning.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the Examiner Office, No. 19, Catharine-street, Strand, London.—Price 7d.